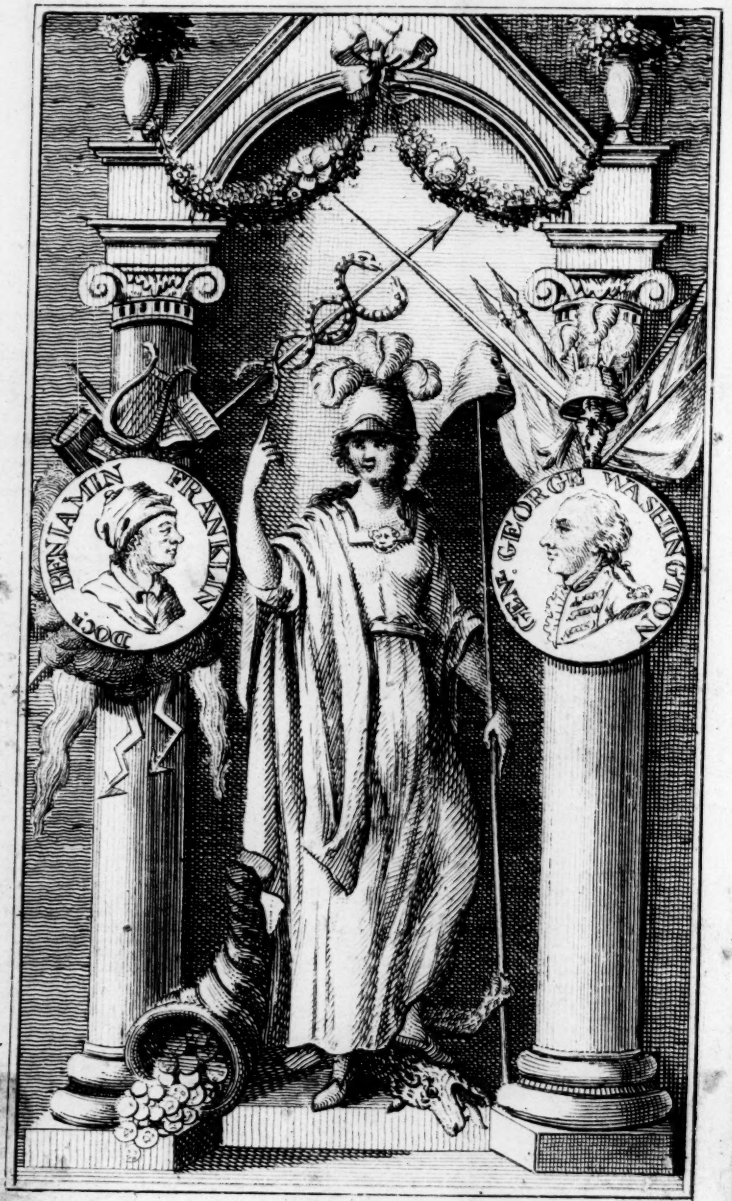
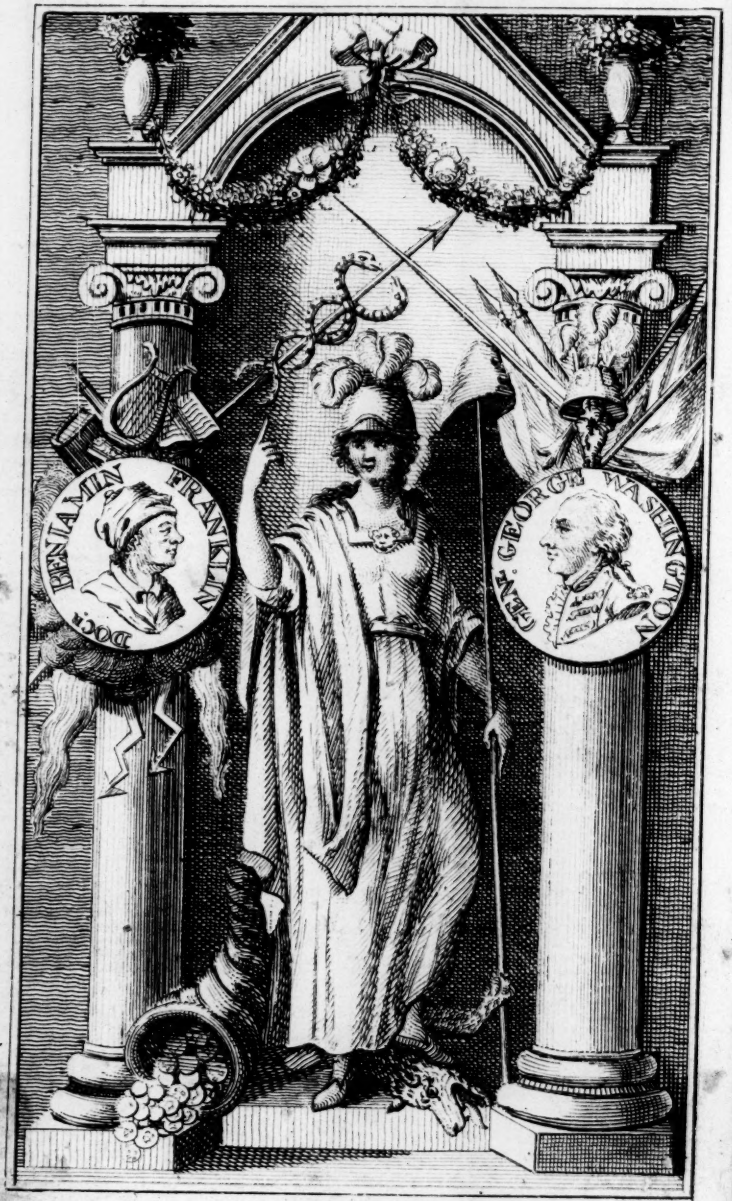
Frontiſpiece



America trampling on Oppreſſion

Frontiſpiece



America trampling on Oppreſſion

THE HISTORY OF NORTH AMERICA.

CONTAINING,

A Review of the Cuſtoms and Manners

OF THE

Original Inhabitants;

The firſt Settlement of the

BRITISH COLONIES,

THEIR

RISE AND PROGRESS,

FROM

The earlieſt Period to the Time of their becoming

United, free and independent States.

BY THE REV. MR. COOPER.

Embelliſhed with COPPER-PLATE CUTS.

LONDON:
Printed for E. NEWBERY, the Corner of St. Paul's Church-Yard. 1789.

BRITISH
MUSEUM

PREFACE.

FUTURE generations will perhaps view the late revolution in North America, as the moſt ſingular phœnomenon that ever appeared in the political hemiſphere of any nation.

To point out the gradual ſteps by which America finally obtained her independence, to deſcribe thoſe terrible ſcenes of rapine, blood, and ſlaughter, which accompanied thoſe ſtruggles, ſo fatal to thouſands of brave officers and men on both ſides, and ſo ruinous to the finances of the mother-country, are principally the objects of this epitome.

In the execution of this buſineſs, we have endeavoured to diveſt ourſelves of every ſpark of national prejudice, and have therefore contented ourſelves with barely relating facts, without preſum-

ing to give our opinion thereon, wiſhing to leave our readers the ſole power of judging for themſelves.

Beſides the detail of theſe important events, we have given an account of the cuſtoms and manners of the original inhabitants of North America, and ſuch as they nearly are at this day. We have alſo ſhewn at what time, and by what cauſes, the Britiſh colonies in North America were firſt ſettled, and have marked their riſe from their original inſignificance, till they became *Thirteen United and Independent States.*

2 JY 61

CON-

CONTENTS.

CHAP. I.

DESCRIPTION of the perſons, manners, and cuſtoms of the original inhabitants of North America.—Their dreſs, education, and employments.—Their hoſpitality and reſentments.—Liberty the darling paſſion of the original natives.—Feaſts on what occaſions appointed.—Method of atoning for murder.—Mourning for their dead.—The feaſt of ſouls.—Method of preparing for war.—Miſerable ſtate of their priſoners, Page 13

CHAP. II.

Account of the firſt ſettlers of North America.—Settlement at New Plymouth.—The Puritans purchaſe and ſettle the Maſſachuſetts Bay.—Connecticut and New Haven colonies ſettled.—Providence and Rhode Iſland.—New Hampſhire and the Main.—New York.—New Jerſey.—Virginia.—Maryland.—Carolina.—Pennſylvania and Delaware.—Georgia, ——— 32

CHAP. III.

Expedition againſt Louiſburgh.—Gen. Braddock defeated.—Maſſachuſetts aſſembly declare againſt parliamentary taxes.—The ſtamp act.—Riots at Boſton on account of that act.—The ſtamp act repealed.—Mr. Charles Townſhend's bill for taxing the colonies afreſh.—Troops ordered to Boſton.—Soldiers at Boſton fire on the inhabitants.—Eaſt India company empowered to export their own teas.—Tea thrown into the ſea at Boſton.—Meaſures purſued relative to the Boſton port Bill.—Maſſachuſetts people prepare to defend their rights by arms.—Gage fortifies the entrance into Boſton.—Proceedings in the Britiſh houſes of parliament.—Gen. Gage ſends troops to Salem.—He ſends troops to Concord and Lexington, who are defeated.—

The reſtraining bills.—Howe, Clinton, and Burgoyne ſail for Boſton, —— 47

CHAP. IV.

The expedition againſt Ticonderoga.—George Waſhington, Eſq. elected commander in chief of the continental forces.—The battle at Breed's-hill, commonly called Bunker's-hill.—Georgia acceeds to the union.—The Thirteen United Colonies.—The Aſia man of war fires upon New York.—Col. Arnold's expedition into Canada.—Falmouth deſtroyed, and on what account.—Col Allen, an American officer, taken priſoner, and put in irons.—Gen. Montgomery appears before Quebec, and is killed there, —— 66

CHAP. V.

Gen. Howe evacuates Boſton.—Norfolk in Virginia burnt.—Sir Peter Parker and Earl Cornwallis ſail for America.—The blockade of Quebec continued.—The Americans retreat from before it.—A number of Highlanders and Col. Campbell taken at Boſton.—Declaration of American independence.——Gen. Howe lands the royal army on Long Iſland. —— 85

CHAP. VI.

Wretched ſtate of the American armies under Waſhington and Gates.—New York taken by the Engliſh.—The battle of the White Plains.—A body of Heſſians defeated at Trenton.—Gen. Howe removes his army from Staten Iſland.—Gen. Burgoyne proceeds to Crown Point.—Ticonderoga and Fort Independence evacuated by the Americans.—Deſcription of the flag of the United States.—Battle at the Brandywine.—Philadelphia taken by the royal forces.—Account of Miſs M'Rea's cruel death by the Indians.—Americans engage the Britiſh under Gen. Burgoyne.—Diſtreſs and calamity

of the royal army.—Gen. Burgoyne baffled in all his deſigns, and reduced to the laſt extremity.—He ſigns the convention. —— 104

CHAP VII.

Count Donop repulſed in the attack upon Red Bank.—Mud Iſland reduced by the Britiſh.—Congreſs receive the treaties concluded between France and the United States.—The Randolph, an American frigate, blown up.—Sir Henry Clinton ſucceeds Gen. Howe in America.—The Marquis de la Fayette, with 2500 men, narrowly eſcapes being cut off by the Britiſh forces.—The treaties between France and the United Sates ſigned.—Lord North's conſiliatory propoſitions.—Meſſ. Franklin, Deane, and Lee, have a public audience at the French court.—The Britiſh army evacuates Philadelphia.—Skirmiſhes between the Britiſh and Americans.—The Britiſh arrive at Sandy Hook.—Count d'Eſtaing's fleet anchors within the Hook.—Gen. Johnſtone attempts to corrupt certain members of the congreſs.—Dr. Franklin ſent as miniſter to the court of France, —— 123

CHAP. VIII.

The Britiſh operations againſt Georgia.—The affairs of the United States in a deplorable Condition.—Gen Lincoln ſent to South Carolina.—Gen. Aſhe ſurpriſed and defeated.—Sir Henry Clinton takes Stoney Point.—Count d'Eſtaing ſails from the Weſt Indies for the American coaſt.—The French and Americans repulſed at Savannah.—Diſtreſs of Waſhington's army for want of bread.—Charleſtown taken by the Britiſh forces.—Tarleton defeats Col. Buford.—A French fleet with troops arrive at Newport.—Treaty ſigned between Holland and America.—Earl Cornwallis defeats Gen. Gates.—

Major Andre taken and executed as a ſpy.— Gen. Arnold takes refuge on board the Vulture ſloop of war, ——— 139

CHAP. IX.

Sir Henry Clinton ſends 3000 troops to the Bay of Cheſapeak.—The French and Spaniſh fleet form a junction in the Weſt Indies.—Mr. Laurens taken in his paſſage to Holland.—Sir Joſeph Yorke leaves the Hague.—Lieut. Col. Tarleton detached after Gen. Morgan, by whom Tarleton is defeated.— Cornwallis attacks Greene, and defeats him.— Sir George Rodney and Gen. Vaughan take St. Euſtatia, St. Martin, and Saba.—The French troops join the Americans under Waſhington.—Sir Samuel Hood and Count de Graſſe engage.—Lord Cornwallis repairs to York Town and Glouceſter. —A capitulation ſettled, and Cornwallis ſurrenders the forts of York Town and Glouceſter.—The Britiſh fleet and army, deſtined for the relief of Lord Cornwallis, arrive off Cheſapeak after his ſurrender, and conſequently return to New York.— De Graſſe ſails for the Weſt Indies. 161

CHAP. X.

Mr. Laurens diſcharged from his confinement in the Tower of London.—Sir George Rodney comes up with Count de Graſſe in the Weſt Indies.—They engage.—De Graſſe is defeated and taken.—The neceſſity of peace for the United States of America. —Savannah evacuated by the Britiſh forces.— Charleſtown alſo evacuated.—Proviſional articles of peace ſigned between the Britiſh and American commiſſioners. — The definitive treaty of peace ſigned between the Engliſh, French, Spaniſh, and Americans, ——— 175

2 JY 61 THE

THE HISTORY OF NORTH AMERICA.

CHAP. I.

BEFORE we proceed to deſcribe what America is at preſent, or by what means ſhe became independent of the Mother Country, it cannot be diſagreeable to our readers, to be informed of the perſons, cuſtoms, and manners, of the original inhabitants of North America.

The native American Indians are tall and ſtraight in their limbs, beyond the proportion of moſt nations. Their bodies are ſtrong, but more fitted to endure much hardſhip, than to continue long at any ſervile work, which they cannot ſupport. Their bodies and heads are flattiſh;

their features are even and regular, but their countenances fierce; their hair long, black, lank, and very ſtrong, but without beards. The colour of their ſkin is a reddiſh brown, which moſt of them admire, and take proper methods to improve.

The Europeans, on their firſt arrival in America, found the Indians quite naked, except thoſe parts, which it is common for the moſt uncivilized people to conceal. Since that time, they have generally a coarſe blanket to cover them, which they buy from their neighbours. The whole tenor of their lives is of a piece: they are hardy, poor, and ſqualid; and their education, from their infancy, is ſolely directed to fit their bodies for the mode of life they purſue, and to form their minds to inflict and endure the greateſt evils. Their only occupations are hunting and war, for agriculture is left to their women.

As ſoon as their hunting ſeaſon is over, which they go through with much patience, and in which they exert great ingenuity, they paſs the reſt of their lives in entire indolence. They ſleep half the day in their huts, and obſerve no bounds of decency in their eating and drinking. Before the Europeans diſcovered them, they had no ſpirituous liquors; but now, the acquire-

acquirement of theſe is the principal object of their purſuit.

The Indians are grave, even to ſadneſs, in their deportment upon any ſerious occaſion, obſervant of thoſe in company, reſpectful to the old, and of a temper cool and deliberate. They are never in haſte to ſpeak before they have thought well of the matter, and are ſure the perſon, who ſpoke before them, has finiſhed all he has to ſay. They have, therefore, the greateſt contempt for the vivacity of the Europeans, who interrupt each other, and frequently ſpeak all together. In their public councils and aſſemblies, every man ſpeaks in his turn, according as his years, his wiſdom, or his ſervices to his country, have ranked him. Not a word, not a whiſper, not a murmur is heard from the reſt while he ſpeaks; no indecent condemnation, no ill-timed applauſe. The younger claſs attend for their inſtruction, and here they learn the hiſtory of their nation; here they are inflamed with the ſongs of thoſe who celebrate the warlike actions of their anceſtors; and here they are taught what are the intereſts of their country, and how to purſue them.

Though the American Indian is naturally humane and hoſpitable, yet, to the enemies of his country, or to thoſe who

have privately offended him, he is implacable. He conceals his reſentments, he appears reconciled, till, by ſome treachery or ſurpriſe, he has an opportunity of executing an horrible revenge. No length of time is ſufficient to allay his reſentment, no diſtance of place great enough to protect the object; he croſſes the ſteepeſt mountains, he pierces the moſt impervious foreſts, and traverſes the moſt hideous bogs and deſerts for ſome hundreds of miles, bearing the inclemency of the ſeaſons, the fatigue of the expedition, the extremes of hunger and thirſt, with patience and cheerfulneſs, in hopes of ſurpriſing his enemy, on whom he exerciſes the moſt ſhocking barbarities.

The Americans have ſcarce any temples; for, as they live by hunting, inhabit mean cottages, and are given to change their habitation, they are ſeldom very religious. Some appear to have little ideas of God; others entertain better notions, and hold the exiſtence of the Supreme Being, eternal and uncorruptible, who has power over all. Satisfied with owning this, which is traditionary among them, they pay him no ſort of worſhip.

The darling paſſion of the Americans is liberty, and that in its fulleſt extent: to liberty the native Indians ſacrifice every thing.

thing. This is what makes a life of uncertainty and want ſupportable to them, and their education is directed in ſuch a manner as to cheriſh this diſpoſition to the utmoſt. They are indulged in all manner of liberty; they are never, upon any account, chaſtiſed with blows, and very rarely even chidden.

Though ſome tribes are found in America with a king at their head, yet his power is rather perſuaſive than coercive, and he is reverenced as a father, more than feared as a monarch. He has no guards, no priſons, no officers of juſtice. In ſome tribes, there are a kind of nobility, who, when they come to years of diſcretion, are entitled to a place and vote in the councils of the nation. But among the Five Nations, or Iroquois, the moſt celebrated commonwealth of North America, and in ſome other nations, there is no other qualification abſolutely neceſſary for the headmen, but age, with ability and experience in their affairs.

Whenever any affair of conſequence is to be tranſacted, they appoint a feaſt, of which almoſt the whole nation partakes. There are ſmaller feaſts on matters of leſs general concern, to which none are invited but thoſe who are engaged in that particular buſineſs. At theſe feaſts it is againſt all

rule to leave any thing; ſo that, if they cannot eat all, what remains is thrown into the fire. They look upon fire as a thing ſacred, and in all probability their feaſts were anciently ſacrifices. Before the entertainment is ready, the principal perſon begins a ſong, the ſubject of which is the fabulous or real hiſtory of their nation, the remarkable events which have happened, and whatever matters may conduce to their honour or inſtruction. The others ſing in their turn. They have dances too, with which they accompany their ſongs, chiefly of a martial kind; and no ſolemnity or public buſineſs is carried on without ſuch ſongs and dances.

The charge of the internal peace and order is likewiſe committed to the ſame council of their elders, which regulates whatever regards the external policy of the ſtate. Their ſuits are few, and quickly decided, having neither property nor art enough to render them perplexed or tedious.

The loſs of any of their people, whether by war or a natural death, is lamented by the whole town he belongs to. In ſuch circumſtances no buſineſs is taken in hand, however important, nor any rejoicings permitted, however intereſting the occaſion, until all the pious ceremonies due to the

the dead are performed, which are always diſcharged with the greateſt ſolemnity. The dead body is waſhed, anointed, and painted, ſo as in ſome meaſure to abate the horrors of death. Then the women lament the loſs with the moſt bitter cries, and the moſt hideous howlings, intermixed with ſongs, which celebrate the great actions of the deceaſed, and thoſe of his anceſtors. The men mourn in a leſs extravagant manner. The whole village attends the body to the grave, which is then interred, habited in their moſt ſumptuous ornaments. With the body of the deceaſed are placed his bow and arrows, with what he valued moſt in his life, and proviſions for the long journey he is to take. Feaſting attends this, as it does every ſolemnity.

No inſtances of regard to their deceaſed friends are ſo ſtriking as what they call the Feaſt of the Dead, or the Feaſt of Souls. The day of this ceremony is appointed in the council of their chiefs, who give orders for every thing that may enable them to celebrate it with pomp and magnificence. The neighbouring people are invited to partake of the feaſt, and to be witneſſes of the ſolemnity. At this time, all who have died ſince the laſt ſolemn feaſt of that kind are taken out of their graves; thoſe who have

have been interred at the greateſt diſtance from the villages are diligently ſought after, and brought to this great rendezvous of ſepulchral relicts.

The opening of theſe tombs diſplays one of the moſt ſtriking ſcenes that can be conceived. This humiliating portrait of human miſery, exhibited in ſo many images of death, wherein a thouſand various ſhapes of horror are depicted, according to the different ravages that time has made, forms altogether a ſcene too indelicate to be here deſcribed. I know not which ought to affect us moſt, the horror of ſo ſtriking a ſight, or the tender piety and affection of thoſe poor people towards their departed friends.

This ſtrange feſtival is the moſt magnificent and ſolemn of any they have, not only on account of the great concourſe of natives and ſtrangers, and of the pompous re-interment they give to the dead, whom they dreſs in the fineſt ſkins they can get, after having expoſed them for ſome time in this pomp, but for the games of all kinds which they celebrate upon the occaſion, in the ſpirit of thoſe, which the ancient Greeks and Romans celebrated upon ſimilar occaſions. In this manner do they endeavour to ſooth the calamities of this life, by the honours they pay to the dead. Though among

among theſe ſavage nations this cuſtom is impreſſed with ſtrong marks of the ferocity of their nature; yet an honour to the dead, a tender feeling of their abſence, and a revival of their memory, are ſome of the moſt excellent means of ſoftening our rugged nature into humanity.

Though the women in America have generally the laborious part of œconomy upon themſelves, yet they are far from being the ſlaves they appear, and are not at all ſubject to the great ſubordination, in which they are placed in countries where they ſeem to be more reſpected. On the contrary, they hold their councils, and have their ſhare in all deliberations that concern the ſtate; nor are they found inferior to the part they act. Polygamy is practiſed by ſome nations, but it is not general. In moſt places, they content themſelves with one wife; but a divorce is admitted, and for the ſame cauſes that it was allowed among the Jews, Greeks, and Romans. No nation of the Americans is without a regular marriage, in which there are many ceremonies. Incontinent before marriage, after wedlock the chaſtity of their women is remarkable. The puniſhment of the adultreſs, as well as that of the adulterer, is in the hands of the huſband himſelf, and it is often ſevere, being inflicted

inflicted by him who is at once the party and the judge. Their marriages are not fruitful, ſeldom producing above two or three children; and from hence we may derive the principal cauſe of the depopulation of America.

The manner of their preparing for war, and their mode of carrying it on, ſeem peculiar to themſelves. Almoſt the ſole occupation of the American Indian is war, or ſuch an exerciſe as qualifies him for it. His whole glory conſiſts in this, and no man is at all conſidered until he has encreaſed the ſtrength of his country with a captive, or adorned his hat with the ſcalp of one of his enemies. When the ancients reſolve upon war, they do not always declare what nation it is they are determined to attack, that the enemy, upon whom they really intend to fall, may be off their guard; and they ſometimes even let whole years paſs over without committing any act of hoſtility, that the vigilance of all may be unbent by the long continuance of the watch, and the uncertainty of the danger.

In the mean time, they are not idle at home. The principal captain ſummonſes the youths of the town to which he belongs, the war-kettle is ſet on the fire, the war ſongs and dances commence, the hatchet

hatchet is ſent to the villages and allies of the ſame nation, and the moſt hideous howlings continue, without intermiſſion, day and night, over the whole tract of country. The women add their cries to thoſe of the men, lamenting thoſe whom they have either loſt in war or by natural death, and demanding their places to be ſupplied by their enemies.

The fury of the nation being thus raiſed to the greateſt height, and all longing to embrue their hands in blood, the war captain prepares the feaſt, which conſiſts of dog's fleſh. All that partake of this feaſt receive little billets, which are ſo many engagements they take to be faithful to each other, and obedient to their commander. None are forced to the war; but, when they have accepted this billet, they are looked upon as enliſted, and it is then death to recede. All the warriors in this aſſembly have their faces blackened with charcoal, intermixed with daſhes and ſtreaks of vermillion, which give them a moſt horrid appearance. Their hair is dreſſed up in an odd manner, with feathers of various kinds.

In this aſſembly, which is preparatory to their military expedition, the chief begins the war-ſong, which having continued for ſome time, he raiſes his voice to the

the higheſt pitch, and turning off ſuddenly in a ſort of prayer, he addreſſes himſelf to the god of war, whom they call Areſkoni. "I invoke thee (ſays he) to be favourable to my enterpriſe! I invoke thy care of me and my family! I invoke ye likewiſe, all ye ſpirits and dæmons good and evil! all ye that are in the ſkies, or on the earth, or under the earth, to pour deſtruction on our enemies, and to return me and my companions ſafely to my country!" All the warriors join him in this prayer with ſhouts and acclamations. The captain renews his ſong, ſtrikes his club againſt the ſtakes of the cottage, and begins the war-dance, accompanied with the ſhouts of all his companions, which continue as long as he dances.

On the day appointed for their departure, they take leave of their friends, and change their clothes, or what moveables they have, in token of friendſhip. Their wives and female relations go out before them, and attend at ſome diſtance from the town. The warriors march out all dreſſed in their fineſt apparel and moſt ſhowy ornaments, regularly one after another, for they never march in rank. Their chief walks ſlowly on before them, ſinging the death-ſong, while the reſt preſerve the moſt profound ſilence. When they come up to the women,

men, they deliver to them all their finery, put on their worſt clothes, and then proceed as their commander directs.

The Indians ſeldom engage in a war upon motives common to Europe: they have no other end but the glory of victory, or the benefit of their ſlaves, which it enables them to add to their nation, or ſacrifice to their brutal fury; and it is very ſeldom, that they take any pains to give their wars even a colour of juſtice. They fall ſometimes on one nation, and ſometimes on another, and ſurpriſe ſome of their hunters, whom they ſcalp and bring home as priſoners. Their ſenators wink at this, or rather encourage it, as it tends to keep up the martial ſpirit of the people, enures them to watchfulneſs and hardſhips, and gives them an early taſte for blood. The qualities of an Indian war are vigilance and attention, and to give and avoid a ſurpriſe; and patience and ſtrength to endure the intolerable fatigues and hardſhips which always attend it.

They often enter a village, while the ſtrength of the nation is employed in hunting, and maſſacre all the helpleſs old men, women, and children, or make priſoners of as many as they can manage, or have ſtrength enough to be uſeful to their nation. They often cut off ſmall parties of

men in their huntings; but when they diſcover an army of their enemies, their way is to throw themſelves flat on their faces among the withered leaves, the colour of which their bodies are painted exactly to reſemble. They generally let a part paſs unmoleſted, and then, riſing a little, they take aim, being excellent markſmen, and ſetting up a tremendous ſhout, which they call the war-cry, they pour a ſtorm of muſket bullets on the enemy, having long ſince laid aſide the uſe of arrows. The party attacked returns the ſame cry. Every man in haſte retires behind a tree, returns the fire of the adverſe party, as ſoon as they raiſe themſelves from the ground to give the ſecond diſcharge.

Having fought ſome time in this manner, the party which thinks it has the advantage ruſhes out of its cover, with ſmall axes in their hands, which they dart with great addreſs and dexterity. They redouble their cry, intimidate their enemies with menaces, and encourage each other with a boaſtful diſplay of their own brave actions. Thus, being come hand to hand, the conteſt is ſoon decided, and the conquerors ſatiate their ſavage fury with the moſt ſhocking inſults and barbarities to the dead, biting their fleſh, tearing their ſcalps from their heads, and wallowing in their blood, like the wild beaſts of the foreſts.

The

The fate of their priſoners is indeed miſerable. During the greater part of their journey homewards they ſuffer no injury; but when they arrive at the territories of the conquering ſtate, or at thoſe of their allies, the people from every village meet them, and think they ſhew their attachment to their friends by the barbarous treatment of the unhappy victims; who on their arrival at their deſtined ſtation, generally bring with them marks of the moſt cruel and mercileſs treatment.

The conquerors enter the town in triumph; the war-captain waits upon the head-men, and in a low voice gives them a circumſtantial account of every particular of the expedition, of the damages the enemy has ſuffered, and his own loſs in it. This being done, the public orator relates the whole to the people. Before they yield to the joy which the victory occaſions, they lament the friends they have loſt in the purſuit of it. The parties moſt nearly concerned are apparently afflicted with a deep and real ſorrow; but, by one of thoſe ſtrange turns of the human mind, faſhioned to any thing by cuſtom, as if they were diſciplined in their grief, upon the ſignal for rejoicing, in a moment the tears are wiped from their eyes, and they ruſh into an

vagance and phrenzy of joy for their victory. All this time, the fate of the priſoners remains undecided, until the old men meet, and determine concerning their diſtribution.

It is uſual to offer a ſlave to each houſe that has loſt a friend, giving the preference according to the greatneſs of the loſs. The perſon who has taken the captive attends him to the door of the party's cottage, where he delivers him, and with him gives a belt of wampum, to ſhew that he has fulfilled the purpoſe of the expedition, in ſupplying the loſs of a citizen. They for ſome time view the preſent that is made them, and according as they think him or her, for the ſex matters not, proper or improper for the buſineſs of the family, or as they take a capricious liking or diſpleaſure to the countenance of the victim, or in proportion to their natural barbarity, or their reſentment for their loſſes, they decide whether they will receive him into the family, or ſentence him to death. If they be received into the family, happy is their lot, as they are then accepted into the place of the father, ſon, or huſband that is loſt; and they have no other mark of their captivity, but that of not being ſuffered to return to their own country, to attempt which would be certain

tain death. On the contrary, if they diſlike the captive, they throw away the belt with indignation. Then it is no longer in the power of any one to ſave him, the nation is aſſembled as upon ſome great ſolemnity, a ſcaffold is raiſed, and the priſoner tied to the ſtake. He inſtantly begins his death-ſong, and prepares for the enſuing ſcene of cruelty with the moſt undaunted courage. On the other ſide, they prepare to put it to the utmoſt proof, with every torment that the mind of man ingenious in miſchief can deviſe.

It would be too ſhocking for the ear of our youthful reader to be told what inhuman tortures are inflicted on him, till at laſt, one of the chiefs, out of compaſſion, or weary with cruelty, generally puts an end to his life with a club or a dagger. The body is then put into the kettle, and this barbarous employment is ſucceeded by a feaſt equally inhuman.

On this occaſion, the women, forgetting the female nature, and transferring themſelves into ſomething worſe than furies, act their parts, and even outdo the men in this ſcene of horror. The principal perſons of the country ſet round the ſtake ſmoaking, and looking on without the leaſt emotion. What is moſt extraordinary, the ſufferer himſelf, in the little

intervals of his torments, ſmoaks alſo, appears unconcerned, and converſes with his torturers about indifferent matters. Indeed, during the whole time of his execution there ſeems a conteſt between him and them, which ſhall exceed, they in inflicting the moſt horrid pains, or he in enduring them with a firmneſs and conſtancy almoſt above human. Not a groan, not a ſigh, not a diſtortion of countenance, eſcapes him; he poſſeſſes his mind entirely in the midſt of his torments; he recounts his own exploits, informs them what cruelties he had inflicted upon their countrymen, and threatens them with the revenge that will attend his death; and though his reproaches exaſperate them to a perfect ſtate of madneſs, rage, and fury, he continues his reproaches even of their ignorance in the act of tormenting, pointing out himſelf more exquiſite methods, and more ſenſible parts of the body to be afflicted.

We do not dwell upon theſe circumſtances of cruelty, which ſo much degrade human nature, out of choice; but as all, who mention the cuſtoms of this people, have very particularly inſiſted upon their behaviour in this reſpect, and as it ſeems neceſſary, in order to give a true idea of their character, we do not chooſe wholly

to

to omit it. It ſerves to ſhew, in the ſtrongeſt light, to what an inconceivable degree of barbarity the paſſions of men let looſe will carry them. It will point out to us the advantages of a religion that teaches a compaſſion to our enemies, which is neither known nor practiſed in other religions; and it will make us more ſenſible, than ſome appear to be, of the value of commerce, the benefits of a civilized life, and the lights derived from literature, which, if they have abated the force of ſome of the natural virtues by the luxuries which attend them, have taken out likewiſe the ſting of our national vices, and ſoftened the ferocity of the human race, without enervating their courage. On the other hand, the conſtancy of the ſufferers in this trying ſcene, ſhews the wonderful powers of an early inſtitution, and a ferocious thirſt of glory, which makes men imitate and exceed what philoſophy, and even religion, do not produce.

Having thus taken a curſory review of the cuſtoms and manners of the original natives of North America, we ſhall now proceed to give an account of the firſt ſettlement of the Britiſh colonies, and ſhew from what ſmall beginnings time has raiſed them to one immenſe republic, under the title of the United and Independent States

of

of America. In order to accompliſh this matter, we ſhall give a general hiſtory of the late war, which ended in the loſs of thirteen Britiſh American colonies. The different ſieges and battles that took place during that period, we ſhall deſcribe as copiouſly as our narrow limits will permit us.

CHAP. II.

SEVERAL of the moſt zealous and eminent proteſtants, in the reign of Edward VI. oppoſed the popiſh ceremonies and habits, though otherwiſe united to their brethren in religious tenets. Hundreds of them fled into foreign parts to avoid perſecutions, where they connected themſelves with proteſtants of other nations, who were equally arduous for a reformation.

Upon the acceſſion of Queen Elizabeth, in 1558, the refugees returned to England, loaded with experience and learning, but in the utmoſt diſtreſs and poverty. Thoſe of the clergy, who could comply with the queen's eſtabliſhment, were quickly preferred; but the reſt, after being permitted to preach awhile, were ſuſpended, and reduced to their former indigence.

The

The clergy and laity, who wiſhed for greater eccleſiaſtical purity, ſtruggled hard for the aboliſhment of popiſh ceremonies and habits, or at leaſt, leaving the uſe of them indifferent in divine ſervice, by which, they obtained nothing but the honourable nick-name of PURITANS. Queen Elizabeth had enough of the blood of Henry the Eighth, to make her impatient of any oppoſition to her will, eſpecially in matters of religion, in which ſhe had an high opinion of her own knowledge; and, during her whole reign, ſhe kept down the puritans with an uniform and inflexible ſeverity. The merits, however, of their ſufferings, the affected plainneſs of their dreſs, the gravity of their deportment, and the uſe of ſcripture phraſes on the moſt ordinary occaſions, and even their names, which had in them ſomething ſtriking and venerable, as being borrowed from the Old Teſtament, gained them a general eſteem among ſober people of ordinary underſtandings.

When King James came to the throne, he had a very fair opportunity of pacifying matters, or, at leaſt, he might have left them in the condition he found them. On the contrary, he ſuffered them to be perſecuted, but not deſtroyed; they were exaſperated, and yet left powerful; and the

then miniſtry, like thoſe who lately loſt us our colonies, expoſed their own weakneſs, ignorance, and baſeneſs, by an ill-timed ſeverity.

In this ſtate matters remained, until the acceſſion of Charles the Firſt, when they were far from being mended. This prince, endowed with ſome virtues, had very few amiable qualities. As grave as the puritans themſelves, he could never engage the licentious part of the world in his favour; and that gravity being turned againſt the puritans, made him more odious to them. He gave himſelf up entirely to the church and churchmen, and he finiſhed his ill-conduct, in this reſpect, by conferring the firſt eccleſiaſtical dignity of the kingdom, and a great ſway in temporal affairs, upon Dr. Laud, who, hardly fit to direct a college, was entruſted with the government of an empire.

The puritans conſidered the moſt dreary realms, and the moſt unfrequented regions, where they could enjoy liberty of conſcience, as ſuperior to the moſt ſplendid palaces, where they were to be governed by Laud. In conſequence of theſe diſaffections, a little colony ſailed from England, and eſtabliſhed itſelf at a place called New Plymouth, on the continent of America. This happened in 1620.

They

They were but few in number, they landed in a bad ſeaſon, and were ſupplied only from their private funds. The winter was premature, and extremely cold. The country was every where covered with wood, and afforded very little for the refreſhment of perſons ſickly with ſuch a voyage, or even for the ſuſtenance of an infant people. Nearly half of them periſhed by the ſcurvy, by want, and the ſeverity of the climate; but thoſe who ſurvived, not diſpirited with their loſſes, nor with the hardſhips they were ſtill to endure, ſupported by the vigour which was then the character of Engliſhmen, and by the ſatisfaction of finding themſelves out of the reach of the ſpiritual arm, were enabled to procure in this ſavage country a tolerable livelihood, and by degrees a comfortable ſubſiſtence for themſelves and their families.

The people of New Plymouth, having cleared the way for other ſufferers to ſettle in America, with leſs difficulty and danger than what they had experienced; the fame of their plantation ſpreading through the weſtern part of England, and the government in church and ſtate growing every day more oppreſſive, the territory of the Maſſachuſett's Bay was purchaſed of the Plymouth council, in 1628, and a company

pany ſoon formed, who conſulted on ſettling a plantation, to which non-conforming puritans might emigrate, in order to enjoy their own principles in full ſecurity.

In 1630, a large company arrived at Salem, conſiſting of more than fifteen hundred perſons, from different counties in England. From the beginning of the colony, until the emigration ceaſed, in 1640, through a change of affairs in England, there arrived, in 298 veſſels, about 21,200 ſettlers, men, women, and children, or four thouſand families.

They did not, however, all confine themſelves to this colony: ſeveral families removed to Connecticut River, by mutual agreement with their fellow emigrants, who remained behind. Plantations were formed at Hartford, Windſor, and Weathersfield. The inhabitants being ſoon after fully ſatisfied, that they were out of the Maſſachuſett's limits, and of courſe its juriſdiction, entered into a combination among themſelves, became a body politic, without reſtraining the freedom of their civil government to the memberſhip of their churches, and proceeded to the choice of magiſtrates and repreſentatives.

Two large ſhips arrived at Maſſachuſett's Bay, in 1637, with paſſengers from London. Great pains were taken to prevail upon

upon them to remain in the colony; but they hoped, by removing to a conſiderable diſtance, to be out of the reach of a general governor, with whom the country was then threatened. They ſent to their friends in Connecticut to purchaſe of the natives the lands lying between them and Hudſon's River. They then laid the foundation of a flouriſhing colony, of which New Haven was the capital. Connecticut and New Haven continued two diſtinct colonies for many years. At length, the general court of Connecticut determined to prefer an addreſs and petition to Charles the Second, profeſſing their ſubjection and loyalty to his majeſty, and ſoliciting a royal charter; and John Winthrop, Eſq. who had been choſen governor, was appointed to negociate the affair with the king. He ſucceeded, and a royal charter was obtained, conſtituting the two colonies for ever one body corporate and politic.

Mr. Roger Williams, a paſtor of the church of Salem, being baniſhed from the Maſſachuſetts, on account of ſome religious diſputes, went to the Narraganſet country, accompanied with twelve companions, and had land given him by the Indian Sachem Canonicus; of whom he afterwards purchaſed the large tract, lying between Pawtuchet and Pawturat rivers,

(the great falls and the little falls, as the Indian name ſignifies) and ſtiled it *Providence*, from a ſenſe of God's merciful providence to him in his diſtreſs.

The authority and power of Miantonomy, another ſachem, and his uncle Canonicus, awed all the Indians round to aſſiſt him and his few aſſociates. When the determinations of the Maſſachuſett's general court, occaſioned by what they called antinomian diſputes, baniſhed many, and induced others to leave the colony, the heads of the party were entertained in a friendly manner by Mr. Williams, who adviſed them to ſeek a ſettlement on Rhode Iſland, in the year 1638, and was very inſtrumental in procuring it of the Indian ſachems.

New Hampſhire and the Main were ſettled about the ſame time with the Maſſachuſetts, by different proprietors, who had obtained patents, and whoſe views were to enrich themſelves by the fiſhing trade at ſea, and the beaver trade aſhore.

The colony of New York demands our next attention. The Dutch had ſettled it, and named it the New Netherlands. Charles the Second reſolved upon its conqueſt in 1664; and in March granted to his brother, the Duke of York, the region extending from the weſtern banks of the

the Connecticut to the eaſtern ſhore of the Delaware, together with Long Iſland, conferring on him the civil and military powers of government. Col. Nichols was ſent with four frigates and three hundred ſoldiers, to effect the buſineſs. The Dutch governor being unable to make reſiſtance, the New Netherlands ſubmitted to the Engliſh crown, in September, without any other change than of rulers. Few of the Dutch removed, and Nichols inſtantly entered upon the exerciſe of his power, as deputy-governor for the Duke of York, the proprietary.

About the ſame time, 1664, New Jerſey, which was alſo taken from the Dutch, who were conſidered as having no right to any of their ſettlements in theſe parts of America, were included in the grant to the Duke of York. The Duke diſpoſed of it to Lord Berkeley and Sir George Carteret, who, being ſole proprietors, for the better ſettlement of it, agreed upon certain conſtitutions of government, ſo well liked, that the eaſtern parts were ſoon conſiderably peopled.

Virginia was the original name of all the Engliſh North American continental claims, given in honour to the virgin Queen Elizabeth. King James, being applied to, granted letters patent to a body of gentlemen, on

the 6th of April, 1606, with powers to divide themſelves into two diſtinct companies, the one conſiſting of London adventurers, called the firſt, or ſouthern colony of Virginia; the ſecond, or northern colony, compoſed of merchants, belonging to Briſtol, Plymouth, and Exeter. The territory granted to the firſt, or ſouthern colony, was generally called *Virginia*, without any diſtinguiſhing epithet, and retained that name after the ſecond, or northern colony, obtained the name of New England in 1614.

We come next to ſpeak of Maryland. The firſt emigration to this part of America conſiſted of two hundred gentlemen of conſiderable fortune and rank, with their adherents, chiefly Roman Catholics, who hoped to enjoy liberty of conſcience under a proprietary of their own profeſſion. They ſailed from England in November, and landed in Maryland the beginning of 1633. Gov. Calvert, brother to Lord Baltimore, very wiſely and juſtly purchaſed, by preſents of various goods, the rights of the Indians, and with their free conſent took poſſeſſion of their town, which he called St. Mary's. The country was ſettled with ſo much eaſe, and furniſhed with ſo many conveniences, that emigrants repaired thither in ſuch numbers as ſoon to render

render the colony populous and flouriſhing.

Carolina follows Maryland in the order of exiſtence. A few adventurers emigrated from the Maſſachuſetts, and ſettled round Cape Fear, about the time of the Reſtoration. They conſidered mere occupancy, with a transfer from the natives, without any grant from the king, as a good title to the lands they poſſeſſed. They deemed themſelves entitled to the ſame civil privileges as thoſe of the country from whence they had emigrated. For years they experienced the complicated miſeries of want. They ſolicited the aid of their countrymen, and the general court of Maſſachuſetts, with an attention and humanity which did it the greateſt honour, ordered an extenſive contribution for their relief.

The final ſettlement of the province was effected equally through the rapacity of the courtiers of Charles the Second, and his own facility in rewarding thoſe, to whom he was greatly indebted, with a liberality that coſt him little. The pretence, which had been uſed on former occaſions, of a pious zeal for the propagation of the goſpel among the Indians, was ſucceſſively employed to procure a grant of the immenſe region, lying between the 36th de-

gree of North latitude, and the river of St. Matheo, under the 31ſt degree. In March, 1663, this territory was erected into a province by the name of *Carolina*, and conferred on Lord Clarendon, the Duke of Albemarle, Lord Craven, Lord Berkeley, Lord Aſhley, Sir George Carteret, Sir John Colleton, and Sir William Berkeley, as abſolute lord proprietaries, for ever, ſaving the allegiance due to the crown.

Pennſylvania and the Delaware counties next demand our attention. Mr. William Penn, one of the joint purchaſers of the weſtern part of the Jerſeys, having received the moſt exact information of the country to the weſtward of the Delaware, while engaged in the adminiſtration of the joint purchaſe, became deſirous of acquiring a ſeparate eſtate.

He preſented a petition to Charles the Second in June, 1680, ſtating not only his relationſhip to the late admiral, but that he was deprived of a debt due from the crown, when the Exchequer was ſhut. He prayed for a grant of lands, lying to the northward of Maryland, and weſtward of the Delaware; and added, that by his intereſt, he ſhould be able to ſettle a province, which might, in time, repay his claims. Having a proſpect of ſucceſs, he copied

copied from the charter of Maryland the ſketch of a patent, which in November was laid before the attorney-general for his opinion.

Penn had the ſame object in view as Lord Baltimore had, the guarding againſt the exertions of prerogative, which experience had taught both were very inconvenient. The attorney-general declared the clauſe of exemption from taxation illegal; and chief juſtice North being of the ſame opinion, and obſerving its tendency, added the ſaving of the authority of the Engliſh parliament; ſo that it was ſtipulated by the king, for himſelf and his ſucceſſors, that "no cuſtom or other contribution ſhall be laid on the inhabitants or their eſtates, unleſs by the conſent of the proprietary, or governor and aſſembly, or by act of parliament in England."

The next year, 1681, the patent was granted, in conſideration of "the merits of the father, and the good purpoſes of the ſon, in order to extend the Engliſh empire, and to promote uſeful commodities." It was provided by fit clauſes, that the ſovereignty of the king ſhould be preſerved, and that acts of parliament, concerning trade, navigation, and the cuſtoms, be duly obſerved. Penn was empowered to aſſemble the freemen, or their deligates,

in

in ſuch form as he ſhould think proper for raiſing money for the uſe of the colony, and for making uſeful laws, not contrary to thoſe of England, or the rights of the kingdom. A duplicate of the acts of the aſſembly was to be tranſmitted, within five years, to the king in council, and the acts might be declared void within ſix months, if not approved.

It now remains only to give a conciſe account of the ſettlement of Georgia.

In 1732, a number of gentlemen conſidering the vaſt benefit that might ariſe from the tract of land, lying between the Savannah and the river Alatamaha, petitioned the king for a charter, which was accordingly granted in June. They meant, that the country ſhould be made a bulwark for the ſouthern colonies againſt the Spainards, and ſhould give employment to numbers of people, who were burdenſome at home to their friends and pariſhes.

Towards the end of Auguſt, Sir Gilbert Heathcote recommended, in the ſtrongeſt terms, to the directors of the Bank, the intereſt of the colony. His ſpeech had the deſired effect, and the members of the court, after his example, contributed largely towards the undertaking, as did great numbers of the nobility, gentry, clergy and others; and the parliament granted 10,000l. By the beginning of November

November, about one hundred and ſixteen coloniſts preſented themſelves, moſt of them labouring people, and were furniſhed with working tools of all kinds, ſtores, and ſmall arms.

Mr. Oglethorpe, one of the truſtees, generouſly attended the firſt ſet of emigrants to Carolina, where they arrived in good health in January, 1733. The Carolinians made them a preſent of one hundred breeding cattle, beſides hogs, and twenty barrels of rice; and furniſhed them with a party of horſe, and with ſcout boats, by the help of which they reached the Savannah, where Mr. Oglethorpe, ten miles up the river, pitched upon a ſpot for a town, and in February the building of the firſt houſe commenced.

Mr. Oglethorpe was waited upon by a numerous deputation from the Lower Creek nation, with whom he concluded a treaty, and ſoon after ſet out for Charlestown on his return to England, bringing with him ſeveral chiefs and a war captain. Before the end of march, 1734, more emigrants, to the mount of ſix hundred, were either ſent over by charity, or went at their own expence.

In October, the Indians embarked for their own country, having had an allowance, while in London, of twenty pounds a week,

a week, of which they ſpent little, as they commonly eat and drank at the table of perſons of the higheſt diſtinction. They embarked at Graveſend, in a ſhip which carried over a number of Saltz-burghers, being German proteſtants, who, with others of their countrymen that followed, ſettled on the Savannah, a town they called Ebenezer, and which, by their habits of induſtry and ſobriety, ſoon became conſiderable.

The Georgians made a ſurpriſing progreſs in clearing their lands, and building their houſes; and, as an encouragement, the Britiſh parliament granted them a ſupply of 26,000l. which, with very great private donations, were expended upon ſtrengthening the ſouthern part of Georgia.

Thus have we given a ſuccinct account of the firſt eſtabliſhment of the Britiſh colonies in North America. By what unhappy means they at laſt became ſeparated from the mother-country, will be clearly ſhewn in the ſubſequent part of this hiſtory.

Memorable Events recorded in this Chapter.

Anno
1606 Firſt ſettlement made at Virginia.
1620 Settlement at New Plymouth.

1628 New Hampſhire and the Main ſettled.
1628 Puritans purchaſe and ſettle Maſſachuſetts Bay.
1633 Settlement at Maryland.
1635 Connecticut and Providence.
1637 New Haven ſettled.
1638 Settlement of Rhode Iſland.
1663 Carolina ſettled.
1664 New York and New Jerſey.
1681 Pennſylvania and Delaware counties.
1733 Georgia ſettled.

CHAP. III.

THE narrow limits preſcribed to us in this epitome, will not permit us to enter into a copious detail of all the minute concerns of the colonies, which may be found in more voluminous works, and there read by thoſe, who have leiſure and inclination to purſue ſo dry a ſtudy. We ſhall therefore proceed to deſcribe only events of ſome conſequence.

News being received in the Maſſachuſetts of war being declared againſt France and Spain, the general court, then ſitting, made immediate proviſion for raiſing forces for Anapolis in Nova Scotia.

Towards

Towards the end of the month of April, 1745, Commodore Warren arrived from the Weſt Indies, with a ſixty-gun ſhip, and two of forty. He was ſoon after joined by another of forty, which had reached Canſo a ſhort time before. The men of war ſailed immediately to cruiſe before Louiſbourg. The forces ſoon followed, and landed at Chapeaurouge Bay the laſt day of April. The tranſports were diſcovered from the town early in the morning, which gave the inhabitants the firſt knowledge of the deſign.

The ſecond day after landing, four hundred men marched round, behind the hills, to the north-eaſt harbour, where they got about midnight, and ſet fire to all the dwellings and ſtorehouſes, till they came within a mile of the grand battery. The clouds of thick ſmoke, proceeding from the pitch, tar, and other combuſtibles, prevented the garriſon's diſcovering the enemy, though they were but at a ſhort diſtance.

They expected the body of the army upon them, and therefore deſerted the fort, having thrown their powder into a well; but the cannon and ſhot were left, which proved of great ſervice to the beſiegers. The army had near two miles to tranſport their cannon, mortars, &c. through a moraſs,

raſs, which required great labour to accompliſh. The men were yoked together, and, during the night, made great advances.

While the forces were buſily employed on ſhore, the men of war, and other veſſels were cruiſing off the harbour, as often as the weather would permit. On the 18th of May, they captured a French ſixty-four gun ſhip, having 560 men on board, and ſtores of all ſorts for the garriſon.

It was given out, that an attack would be made by ſea with the ſhips, on the eighteenth, while the army did the like by land. Whether a general ſtorm was really intended or not, the French appeared to expect it, from the preparations making on board the men of war, and ſeemed not inclined to attempt to withſtand it.

On the fifteenth, a flag of truce was ſent to the general, deſiring a ceſſation of hoſtilities, that they might conſider of articles for a capitulation. Time was allowed, but their articles were rejected by the general and commodore, and others offered, which were accepted by the French, and hoſtages given on both ſides. The town was in conſequence delivered up on the ſeventeenth. As this was a time, when veſſels were expected from all parts at Louiſbourg, the French flag was kept flying as a decoy. Two Eaſt-Indiamen, and one South-ſea ſhip, of the value of 600,000l. ſterling, were taken

by the ſquadron, at the mouth of the harbour, into which they ſailed as uſual, not knowing that the place had been taken by the Engliſh.

The French having been very troubleſome in the back ſettlements of our colonies, it was concluded to take effectual methods to drive them from the Ohio. The reduction of Niagara, Crown Point, and their forts in Nova Scotia, was alſo reſolved on. General Braddock was accordingly ſent from Ireland to Virginia, with two regiments of foot; and on his arrival, when joined by the reſt of the forces deſtined for that ſervice, he found himſelf at the head of 2200 men. He had bravery, but wanted other qualifications to render him fit for the ſervice to which he was appointed. The ſeverity of his diſcipline made him unpopular among the regulars, and his haughtineſs deprived him of the eſteem of the Americans. His pride diſguſted the Indians, and led him to deſpiſe the country militia, and to ſlight the advice of the Virginian officers.

Colonel Waſhington earneſtly begged of him, when the army was marching for fort Du Queſne, to admit of his going before, and ſcouring the woods with his rangers, which was contemptuouſly refuſed. The general had been cautioned by the Duke of Cumberland to guard againſt a ſurpriſe, and yet he puſhed on heedleſsly with the firſt diviſion, conſiſting of 1400 men, till he fell into

into an ambuſcade of 400, chiefly Indians, by whom he was defeated and mortally wounded, on the ninth of July, 1755.

The regulars were put into the greateſt panic, and fled in the utmoſt confuſion; but the militia had been uſed to Indian fighting, and were not ſo terrified. The general had diſdainfully turned them into the rear, where they continued in a body unbroken, and ſerved under Colonel Waſhington as a moſt uſeful rear-guard, which covered the retreat of the regulars, and prevented their being entirely cut to pieces.

Previous to this, and agreeable to the views of the Britiſh miniſtry, the Maſſachuſetts aſſembly raiſed a body of troops, which were ſent to Nova Scotia, to aſſiſt Lieutenant Governor Lawrence in driving the French from their ſeveral encroachments within that province.

The expedition againſt Niagara was entruſted to Governor Shirley, but failed through various cauſes.

Sir William, then Colonel, Johnſon, was appointed to go againſt Crown Point. The delays, ſlowneſs, and deficiency of preparation, prevented the ſeveral colonies joining their troops till about Auguſt. In the mean time, the active enemy had tranſported forces from France to Canada, marched them down to meet the provincials, and attacked them; but, meeting with a repulſe, loſt ſix hundred

men, beſides having their general Baron Dieſkau wounded and made priſoner.

The next year, the Maſſachuſetts raiſed a great armament to go againſt Crown Point; but Lord Loudon, on his arrival, did not think it proper that the forces ſhould proceed, owing to a temporary miſunderſtanding between his Lordſhip and the general court.

In the year 1758, happily for the Britiſh nation, the great Mr. Pitt was placed at the head of the miniſtry, when the face of affairs was ſoon changed, the war was proſecuted with unexampled ſucceſs, and the enemy was at length driven out of America.

Mr. Iſrael Mauduit, the Maſſachuſetts agent, in 1763, gave early notice of the miniſterial intentions to tax the colonies; but the general-court not being called together till the latter end of the year, inſtructions to the agent, though ſolicited by him, could not be ſent in proper time.

The next year however, 1764, the houſe of repreſentatives came to the following reſolutions: "That the ſole right of giving and granting the money of the people of that province, was veſted in them as their legal repreſentatives; and that the impoſition of duties and taxes by the parliament of Great Britain, upon a people who are not repreſented in the Houſe of Commons, is abſolutely irreconcileable with their rights."—"That no man can juſtly take the property

of

of another without his conſent; upon which original principle, the right of repreſentation in the ſame body, which exerciſes the power of making laws for levying taxes, one of the main pillars of the Britiſh conſtitution, is evidently founded."

Theſe reſolutions were occaſioned by intelligence of what had been done in the Britiſh Houſe of Commons. It had been there debated in March, whether they had a *right* to tax the Americans, they not being repreſented, and determined unanimouſly in the affirmative. Not a ſingle perſon preſent ventured to controvert the *right*.

After various propoſitions for taxing the colonies, Mr. Grenville's intended ſtamp act was communicated to the American agents. Many of them did not oppoſe it, half their number being placemen or dependents on the miniſtry. Mr. Joſeph Sherwood, an honeſt quaker, agent for Rhode Iſland, refuſed his conſent to America's being taxed by a Britiſh parliament. Mr. Mauduit, the Maſſachuſetts agent, favoured the raiſing of the wanted money by a ſtamp duty, as it would occaſion leſs expence of officers, and would include the Weſt-India iſlands. The ſcheme, however, was poſtponed, and the agents authoriſed to inform the American aſſemblies, that they were at liberty to ſuggeſt any other ways of raiſing monies, and that Mr. Grenville was ready to receive propoſals for any

other tax, that might be equivalent in its produce to the ſtamp-tax. The colonies ſeemed to conſider it as an affront, rather than as a compliment. The miniſter would not be content with any thing ſhort of a certain ſpecific ſum, and proper funds for the payment of it. Had not the ſums been anſwerable to his wiſhes, he would have rejected them; and he would ſcarcely have been ſatisfied with leſs than 300,000l. per annum, which was judged abſolutely neceſſary to defray the whole expence of the army propoſed for the defence of America.

No ſatisfactory propoſals being made on the ſide of the Americans, Mr. Grenville adhered to his purpoſe of bringing forward the ſtamp-bill, though repeatedly preſſed by ſome of his friends to deſiſt. Richard Jackſon, Eſq. had been choſen agent for the Maſſachuſetts, who, with Mr. Franklin, and others, lately come from Philadelphia, waited on Mr. Grenville, in February, 1765, to remonſtrate againſt the ſtamp-bill, and to propoſe, that, in caſe any tax muſt be laid upon America, the ſeveral colonies might be permitted to lay the tax themſelves. Mr. Grenville, however, adhered to his own opinions, and ſaid, that he had pledged his word for offering the ſtamp-bill to the houſe, and that the houſe would hear their objections.

The bill was accordingly brought in, and in March, the ſame year, received the royal aſſent.

aſſent. The framers of the ſtamp-act flattered themſelves, that the confuſion which would ariſe from the diſuſe of writings, would compel the colonies to uſe ſtamp-paper, and therefore to pay the taxes impoſed. Thus they were led to pronounce it to be a law which would execute itſelf.

Mr. Grenville, however, was not without his apprehenſions, that it might occaſion diſorders; to prevent or ſuppreſs which, he projected another bill, which was brought in the ſame ſeſſions, whereby it was made lawful for military officers in the colonies to quarter their ſoldiers in private houſes. This ſeemed intended to awe the people into a compliance with the other act. Great oppoſition being made to it, as under ſuch a power in the army, no one could look on his houſe as his own, that part of the bill was dropt; but there ſtill remained a clauſe, when it paſſed into a law, to oblige the ſeveral aſſemblies to provide quarters for the ſoldiers, and to furniſh them with firing, bedding, candles, ſmall beer, rum, and ſundry other articles, at the expence of the ſeveral provinces. This clauſe continued in force after the ſtamp-act was repealed.

Theſe proceedings of the mother-country gave riſe to great diſturbances in America. Some perſons of conſequence at Boſton, to manifeſt their abhorrence and deteſtation of a party in England, who they ſuppoſed were endea-

endeavouring to ſubvert the Britiſh conſtitution, to enſlave the colonies, and to alienate the affections of his majeſty's moſt faithful ſubjects in America, early in the morning of the 14th of Auguſt, hung upon the limb of a large dead elm, near the entrance of Boſton, in one of the moſt public ſtreets, two effigies. One of them, as appeared by the labels affixed thereto, was intended to repreſent the ſtamp-officer; the other was a jack-boot, with a head and horns peeping out of the top.

The report of this novelty drew great numbers from every part of the town and the neighbouring country. This affair was left to take its own courſe, ſo that an enthuſiaſtic ſpirit diffuſed itſelf into the minds of the ſpectators. In the evening, the figures were cut down, and carried in funeral proceſſion, the populace ſhouting, *Liberty and property for ever! No ſtamps, &c.*

They then went to a new building, erected by Mr. Oliver, which they pulled down, falſely ſuppoſing it to be deſigned for the ſtamp-office. As ſoon as they approached Mr. Oliver's houſe, they beheaded the effigy, at the ſame time breaking all his windows, and demoliſhed his gardens, fences, barns, and every thing elſe that came in their way.

The next day, Mr. Oliver, fearful of what might happen, declared that he had written to England and reſigned. The mob aſſembled

bled again at night; and, after ſome expreſſions of joy for the reſignation, proceeded to the lieutenant governor's, Mr. Hutchinſon's houſe, which they beſieged for an hour, but in vain; inſiſting repeatedly upon knowing, whether he had not written in favour of the ſtamp-act.

Theſe diſorders grew every day more enormous and alarming. Mobs once raiſed, ſoon become ungovernable by new and large acceſſions, and extend their intentions far beyond thoſe of the original inſtigators. Crafty men may intermix with them, when they are much heated, and direct their operations very differently from what was at firſt deſigned.

People in England were differently affected by the diſturbances in the colonies. Some were for ſupporting the authority of parliament at all events, and for enforcing the ſtamp-act, if needful, with the point of the ſword; while others were for quieting the colonies by the repeal of it. Happily for them, Mr. Grenville and his party were thrown out of place, and were ſucceeded by the Marquis of Rockingham, when, on the 22d of February, 1766, this obnoxious act was repealed.

In May, 1767, Mr. Charles Townſend, then chancellor of the Exchequer, moved the Houſe of Commons for leave to bring in bills for granting a duty upon paper, glaſs, painters colours, &c. in the Britiſh American colonies;

nies; for ſettling ſalaries on the governors, judges, &c. in North America; and for taking off the duties on teas exported to America, and granting a duty of three-pence a pound on the importation in America. Two bills were at length framed, and in June and July received the royal aſſent.

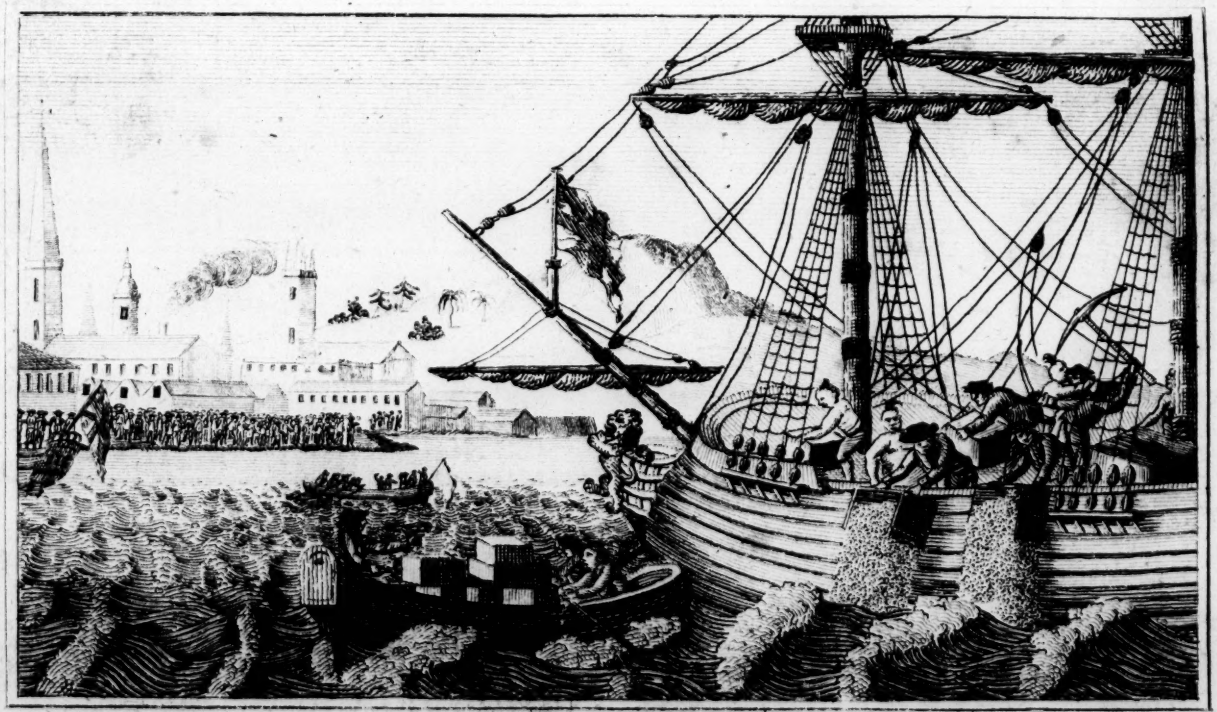
Theſe acts occaſioned freſh diſturbances in America, where matters were carried to a much greater height than before. In conſequence of this, Lord Hillſborough wrote to General Gage, in June, 1768, to ſend troops to Boſton, in order to preſerve the peace of that town.

The introduction of troops into Boſton was attended with very ſerious conſequences. The inhabitants became exceedingly riotous, and ſome of the rabble puſhed their ill conduct ſo far, as to oblige the ſoldiers to fire on them in their own defence. This happened on the 5th of March, 1770, when three perſons were killed, five dangerouſly wounded, and a few ſlightly.

This was far from removing the evil, and only tended to widen the breach. Under the notion of zeal for liberty, the rabble ran into the moſt exceſſive licentiouſneſs, and were every where guilty of the moſt lawleſs, unjuſt, and tyrannical proceedings, pulling down houſes, deſtroying the property of every one that had fallen under their diſpleaſure,

and

p. 60.



Americans throwing the Cargoes of the Tea Ships into the River at Boſton

58
nie
jv

and delivering priſoners out of the hands of juſtice.

Let us now turn our attention to ſee what was doing, in the mean time, at home. The ſupporting the authority of parliament was the only cauſe aſſigned by the miniſter himſelf for retaining the tea-duty, at the very time when he acknowledged it to be as anti-commercial a tax, as any of thoſe that had been repealed upon that principle.

The Eaſt-India company, feeling the bad effects of the colonial ſmuggling trade, in the large quantities of tea, which remained in their warehouſes unſold, requeſted the repeal of the three-pence per pound in America, and offered that, on its being complied with, government ſhould retain ſix-pence in the pound on the exportation. Thus the company preſented the happieſt opportunity that could have been offered for honourably removing the cauſe of difference with America. This afforded an opening for doing juſtice, without infringing the claims on either ſide. The miniſter was requeſted and entreated, by a gentleman of great weight in the company, and a member of parliament, to embrace the opportunity; but it was obſtinately rejected.

New contrivances were ſet on foot to introduce the tea, attended with the three-penny duty, into all the colonies. Various intrigues and ſolicitations were uſed to induce the Eaſt-India

India company to undertake this raſh and fooliſh buſineſs. It was proteſted againſt, as contrary to the principle of the company's monopoly; but the power of the miniſtry prevailed, and the inſignificant three-penny duty on tea was doomed to be the fatal bone of contention between Great Britain and her colonies. The company at laſt adopted the ſyſtem, and became their own factors. They ſent 600 cheſts of tea to Philadelphia, the like quantity to New York and Boſton, beſides what was conſigned to other places. Several ſhips were alſo freighted for different colonies, and agents appointed for the diſpoſal of the commodity.

In the mean time, the coloniſts, who well knew what had paſſed in the mother country, were concerting meaſures to counteract the views of the Britiſh miniſtry. Soon after the arrival of the tea-ſhips at Boſton, a number of perſons, chiefly maſters of veſſels and ſhip-builders from the north end of the town, about ſeventeen in number, dreſſed as Indians, went on board the ſhips, and in about two hours hoiſted out of them, and broke open 342 cheſts of tea, the contents of which they emptied into the ſea. They were not in the leaſt moleſted; for the multitude of ſpectators on the wharf ſerved as a covering party. The whole buſineſs was conducted with very little tumult, and no damage was done to the veſſels or any other property.

When

When the buſineſs was finiſhed, the people returned quietly to their own towns and habitations.

Theſe and other deciſive proceedings of the Boſtonians, induced the Britiſh miniſtry to bring in a bill into parliament, "for the immediate removal of the officers concerned in the collection of the cuſtoms at Boſton, and to diſcontinue the landing and diſcharging, lading and ſhipping of goods, wares, and merchandiſes, at Boſton, or within the harbour thereof." On the 31ſt of March, 1774, the bill received the royal aſſent.

Other bills were paſſed by the Britiſh parliament, brought in by Lord North, all tending to puniſh the Americans, and the Boſtonians in particular, for their refractory behaviour. Petitions were ſent over from America, and ſeveral of the members of both houſes reprobated theſe ſevere and dangerous proceedings; but no regard was paid either to the petitions, or to the remonſtrances of the minority in both houſes. The then miniſtry, at the head of which was Lord North, were determined to accept from the Americans of nothing ſhort of abſolute and implicit obedience to the laws of taxation. On the other hand, the people of Maſſachuſetts Bay, ſupported and ſpurred on by the other colonies, were determined not to ſubmit, and prepared to repel force by force. They col-

lected all the arms they could, and ſpent much of their time in the exerciſe of them.

Theſe proceedings of the people, and their manifeſt diſpoſition to reſiſtance, alarmed the general, who thought it neceſſary, for the ſafety of the troops, as well as to ſecure the important poſt of Boſton, to fortify the entrance at the neck, which afforded the only communication, except by water, between the town and the continent.

In England, petitions were preſented from the merchants of London, and almoſt all the trading towns in the kingdom; and Mr. Bollan, Dr. Franklin, and Mr. Lee, alſo preſented petitions from the American congreſs; but government treated them with indifference and contempt.

Lord Chatham perſevered in the proſecution of his conciliatory ſcheme with America, and accordingly brought into the Houſe of Lords the outlines of a bill, which he hoped would anſwer that ſalutary purpoſe; but the miniſtry rejected it. At the ſame time, Lord North gave a ſketch of the meaſures he intended to purſue, which were to ſend a greater force to America, and to bring in a temporary act to put a ſtop to all the foreign trade of the different colonies of New England, particularly their fiſhery on the banks of Newfoundland, till they returned to their duty.

While

While matters were thus going on at home, General Gage, at Boſton, received intelligence that cannon and carriages were depoſited in the neighbourhood of Salem. He accordingly ſent a body of troops from the caſtle to ſeize them; but the Americans found time to get them away, and the troops returned without effecting any thing.

A ſkirmiſh having happened at Lexington, between the king's troops and a party of the militia, General Gage no ſooner received this intelligence, than he detached Lord Percy to Concord, with ſixteen companies of foot, and a number of marines, 900 men in the whole, and two pieces of cannon, to ſupport Colonel Smith.

The junction of the brigade under Lord Percy, with the detachment under Colonel Smith, gave the laſt a breathing time, eſpecially as they now had cannon, which awed the provincials from preſſing upon the rear in a direct line; but the whole force did not venture to halt long, as the minute men and militia were every where collecting, in order to cut off their retreat to Boſton. They ſoon renewed their march, conſtant ſkirmiſhing ſucceeded, and a continual fire, though often irregular and ſcattering on their ſide, as well as on the part of the provincials. The cloſe firing from behind the walls, by good markſmen, for ſuch were almoſt all the provincials, put the troops into no ſmall

confuſion, and made it ſo dangerous for the officers, that they were more attentive to their ſafety than common. The regulars, when near Cambridge, were upon the point of taking a wrong road, which would have led them into the moſt imminent danger; but were prevented by the direction of a young gentleman reſiding at the college. They made good their retreat a little after ſun-ſet over Charles-town neck to Bunker's-hill, but ſpent and worn down by the exceſſive fatigues they had undergone, having marched that day between thirty and forty miles. Here they remained ſecure till the next day, when they croſſed at Charles-town ferry and returned to Boſton. In this ſkirmiſh, the regulars had 65 killed, 180 wounded, and 28 made priſoners. The provincials had 50 men killed, 34 wounded, and four miſſing.

Let us now return to the mother country, where the reſtraining and fiſhery bill met with great oppoſition in both houſes of parliament. The fiſhery bill had ſcarcely cleared the Houſe of Commons, when Lord North brought in another, to reſtrain the trade and commerce of the colonies of New Jerſey, Pennſylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and South Carolina, to Great Britain, Ireland, and the Britiſh iſlands in the Weſt-Indies, under certain conditions and limitations.

The Britiſh miniſtry did not confine themſelves to the making of laws; they alſo ſent

out

out againſt the Americans Generals Howe, Clinton, and Burgoyne, who left England on the 28th of May; and, in about a week afterwards, tranſports laden with troops ſailed from Cork, to reinforce General Gage.

Memorable Events recorded in this Chapter.

1745 Expedition againſt Louiſbourg.
1755 General Braddock defeated.
1764 Maſſachuſetts aſſembly declare againſt parliamentary taxes.
1765 The ſtamp-act paſſed.—Riots at Boſton on account of that act.
1766 The ſtamp-act repealed.
1767 Mr. Charles Townſend taxes the colonies again.
1768 Troops ordered to Boſton.
1770 Soldiers at Boſton fire on the inhabitants.
1773 The Eaſt-India company empowered to export their own teas.—The tea thrown into the ſea at Boſton.
1774 The Maſſachuſetts people prepare to defend their rights by arms.—General Gage fortifies the entrance into Boſton.
1775 General Gage ſends troops to Salem.—Skirmiſhes at Concord and Lexington.—The reſtraining bills paſſed in England.—The Generals Howe, Clinton, and Burgoyne, ſail for Boſton.

CHAP. IV.

THE neceſſity of ſecuring Ticonderoga was early attended to by many in New England. General Gage had ſet the example of attempting to ſeize upon military ſtores, and by ſo doing had commenced hoſtilities, ſo that retaliation appeared warrantable.

Colonel Allen was at Caſtleton, with about 270 men; 230 of which were *Green Mountain Boys*, ſo called from their reſiding within the limits of the Green Mountains, the Hampſhire Grants being ſo denominated from the range of green mountains that run through them. Sentinels were placed immediately on all the roads, to prevent any intelligence being carried to Ticonderoga.

Colonel Arnold, who now joined Colonel Allen, reported, that there were at Ticonderoga, 80 pieces of heavy cannon, 20 of braſs, from four to eighteen pounders, ten or a dozen mortars, a number of ſmall arms, and conſiderable ſtores; that the fort was in a ruinous condition, and, as he ſuppoſed, garriſoned by about forty men. It was then ſettled, that Colonel Allen ſhould have the ſupreme command, and Colonel Arnold was to be his aſſiſtant.

Colonel Allen, with his 230 Green Mountain Boys, arrived at Lake Champlain, oppoſite

oppoſite to Ticonderoga, on the ninth of May, at night. Boats were with difficulty procured, when he and Colonel Arnold croſſed over with 83 men, and landed near the garriſon. The two colonels advanced along ſide each other, and entered the port, leading to the fort, in the grey of the morning. A ſentry ſnapped his fuſee at Colonel Allen, and then retreated through the covered way to the parade. The main body of the Americans then followed, and drew up. Capt. de la Place, the commander, was ſurpriſed in bed. Thus was the place taken without any bloodſhed.

On the 15th of June, 1775, the congreſs proceeded to chooſe by ballot a general to command all the continental forces, and George Waſhington, Eſq. was unanimouſly elected.

The next day, orders were iſſued by the Americans, for a detachment of a thouſand men, to march at evening, and entrench upon Bunker's-hill. By ſome miſtake, Breed's hill, high and large like the other, but ſituated on the furtheſt part of the peninſula, next to Boſton, was marked out for the intrenchment inſtead of Bunker's. The provincials proceeded therefore to Breed's hill; but were prevented going to work till near twelve o'clock at night, when they purſued their buſineſs with the utmoſt diligence and alacrity; ſo that, by the dawn of the day, they had thrown up a

ſmall

ſmall redoubt, about eight rods ſquare. Such was the extraordinary ſilence that reigned among them, that they were not heard by the Britiſh on board their veſſels in the neighbouring waters. The ſight of the works was the firſt notice that the Lively man of war had of them, when the captain began firing upon them about four in the morning.

The guns called the town of Boſton, the camp, and the fleet, to behold a novelty, which was little expected. The proſpect obliged the Britiſh generals to alter the plan they intended to have purſued the next day. They grew weary of being cooped up in Boſton, and had reſolved upon making themſelves maſters of Dorcheſter heights; but the preſent provincial movement prevented the expedition. They were now called to attempt poſſeſſing themſelves of Breed's hill, on which the provincials continued working, notwithſtanding a heavy fire from the enemy's ſhips, a number of floating batteries, and a fortification upon Cop's-hill in Boſton, directly oppoſite to the little American redoubt. An inceſſant ſhower of ſhot and bombs was poured by the batteries upon the American works, and yet but one man was killed.

The Americans continued labouring indefatigably till they had thrown up a ſmall breaſt-work, extending from the eaſt ſide of the redoubt to the bottom of the hill; but they

they were prevented completing it from the intolerable fire of the enemy. By ſome unaccountable error, the detachment, which had been working for hours, was neither relieved, nor ſupplied with refreſhments, but were left to engage under theſe diſadvantages.

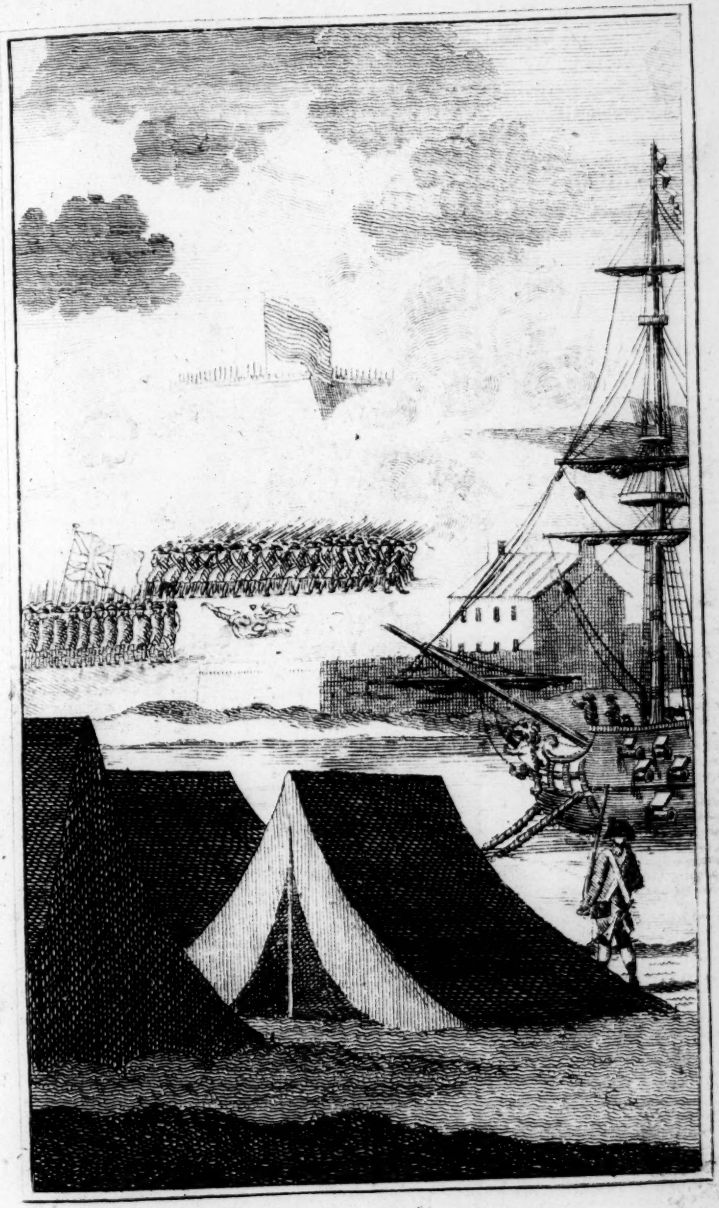
Between twelve and one o'clock, and the day exceedingly hot, a number of boats and barges, filled with regular troops from Boſton, approached Charleſtown, when the men were landed at Moreton's Point. They conſiſted of four battalions, two companies of grenadiers, and ten of light infantry, with a proportion of field artillery; but, by ſome overſight, their ſpare cartridges were much too big for them: ſo that, when the Americans were at length forced from their lines, there was not a round of artillery cartridges remaining.

Major Gen. Howe and Brigadier Gen. Pigot had the command. The troops formed, and remained in that poſition, till joined by a ſecond detachment of light infantry and grenadier companies, a battalion of the land forces, and a battalion of marines, amounting in the whole to about 3000 men. The Generals Clinton and Burgoyne took their ſtand upon Cop's-hill, to obſerve and contemplate the bloody and deſtructive operations that were now commencing. The regulars formed in two lines, and advanced deliberately,

rately, frequently halting to give time for the artillery to fire, which was not well ſerved. The light infantry were directed to force the left point of the breaſt-work, and to take the American line in flank. The grenadiers advanced to attack in front, ſupported by two battalions, while the left, under Gen. Pigot, inclined to the right of the American line. One or two of the continental regiments had been poſted in Charleſtown, but afterwards removed, to prevent their being cut off by a ſudden attack; ſo that the Britiſh were not in the leaſt hurt by the muſquetry from thence.

General Gage had for ſome time reſolved upon burning the town, whenever any works were raiſed by the Americans upon the hills belonging to it: and while the Britiſh were advancing nearer to the attack, orders came to Cop's-hill for executing the reſolution. Soon after a carcaſs was diſcharged, which ſet fire to an old houſe near the ferry way; the fire inſtantly ſpread, and moſt of the place was ſoon in flames; while the houſes at the eaſtern end of Charleſtown were ſet on fire by men who landed from the boats.

The regulars derived no advantage from the ſmoke of the conflagration, for the wind ſuddenly ſhifting, carried it another way, ſo that it could not cover them in their approach. The provincials had not a rifleman among them, not one being yet arrived from the



Battle of Bunkers Hill.

BRITISH
2 JUN
MUSEUM

the ſouthward; nor had they any other guns than common muſkets, and even thoſe were not furniſhed with bayonets. However, they were almoſt all markſmen, being accuſtomed to ſporting of one kind or other from their youth. A number of Maſſachuſetts people were in the redoubt, and the part of the breaſt-work neareſt it. The left of the breaſt-work, and the open ground ſtretching beyond its point to the water-ſide, through which there was not an opportunity of carrying the work, was occupied partly by the Maſſachuſetts forces, and partly by the people of Connecticut.

The Britiſh moved on ſlowly to the attack, inſtead of uſing a quick ſtep; which gave the provincials the advantage of taking ſurer and cooler aim. Theſe reſerved their fire, till the regulars came within ten or twelve rods, when they began a furious diſcharge of ſmall arms, which ſtopped the regulars, who kept up the firing without advancing. The diſcharge from the Americans was ſo inceſſant, and did ſuch execution, that the regulars retreated in diſorder, and with great precipitation towards the place of landing. Their officers uſed every effort to make them return to the charge, with which they at length complied; but the Americans again reſerved their fire till the regulars came within five or ſix rods, when the enemy was a ſecond time put to flight.

General

General Howe and the officers redoubled their exertions; and General Clinton, perceiving how the army was ſtaggered, paſſed over, without waiting for orders, and joined them in time to be of ſervice. The Americans being in want of powder, ſent for a ſupply, but could procure none; for there was but a barrel and a half in the magazine. This deficiency diſabled them from making the ſame defence as before; while the Britiſh reaped a further advantage by bringing ſome cannon to bear, ſo as to rake the inſide of the breaſt-work from end to end. The regular army now made a deciſive puſh, and the fire from the ſhips and batteries was redoubled. The provincials were of neceſſity ordered to retreat.

It was feared by the Americans, that the Britiſh troops would puſh the advantage they had gained, and march immediately to the head quarters at Cambridge, about two miles diſtant, and in no ſtate of defence. But they advanced no further than to Bunker's-hill, where they threw up works for their own ſecurity. The provincials did the ſame upon Proſpect-hill, in front of them, about half way to Cambridge.

The loſs of the Britiſh, according to General Gage, amounted to 1054, of whom 226 were killed; of theſe 19 were commiſſioned officers, including a lieutenant colonel, two majors, and ſeven captains. Seventy other officers

officers were wounded. Among thoſe more generally regretted, were Lieutenant Colonel Abercromby, and Major Pitcairn.

The provincials had 139 killed, 278 wounded, and 36 were miſſing, in all 453.

In the opinion of many, General Howe was chargeable with a capital error in landing and attacking as he did. It might originate from too great a confidence in the forces he commanded, and in too contemptuous an opinion of the enemy he had to encounter. He certainly might have entrapped the provincials, by landing on the narroweſt part of Charleſtown neck, under the fire of the floating batteries and ſhips of war. Here he might have ſtationed and fortified his army, and kept up an open communication with Boſton by a water-carriage, which he would have commanded through the aid of the navy, on each ſide of the peninſula. Had he made this manœuvre, the provincials muſt have made a rapid retreat from Breed's-hill, to eſcape having his troops in their rear, and being encloſed. It was ſaid, that General Clinton propoſed it. The rejection of that propoſal greatly weakened the Britiſh army, and probably prevented the ruin of the Americans.

In July, the congreſs received a letter from the convention of Georgia, ſetting forth, that the colony had acceded to the general

aſſociation, and appointed delegates to attend the congreſs.

The acceſſion of Georgia to the colonies occaſioned their being afterwards called *The Thirteen United Colonies*. The firſt hoſtilities that happened in this part between the oppoſite parties, commenced about the middle of November, when a number of royaliſts attacked the Americans, and obliged them, after three days, to ſurrender a fort they had taken poſſeſſion of, in which they expected to make an effectual reſiſtance.

In the month of November, the New York convention having reſolved upon the removal of the cannon from the battery of the city, Captain Sears was appointed to the buſineſs. Captain Vandeput, of the Aſia man of war, was privately informed of the deſign, and prepared to oppoſe its execution. Learning when it was to be attempted, he appointed a boat to watch the motion of the people aſſembled for the purpoſe about the dead of night. The ſailors in the boat giving the ſignal, with a flaſh of powder, of what was going forwards, the perſons on ſhore miſtook it for an attempt to fire a muſket at them, and immediately aimed a volly of ſhot at the boat, by which a man was killed. Captain Vandeput ſoon after commenced a firing from the Aſia with grape ſhot, ſwivel ſhot, 18 and 24 pounders, without killing a ſingle perſon, and wounded only

only three, two ſlightly, the other loſt the calf of his leg. He then ceaſed for a conſiderable time, ſuppoſing that the people had deſiſted from their purpoſe, while they were only changing their mode of operation.

Capt. Sears provided a deceiving party, intended to draw the Aſia's fire from the line of the working party. He ſent the former behind a breaſt-work, by which they were ſecured by dodging down upon obſerving the flaſh of the Aſia's guns. When all was in readineſs, they huzzaed, and ſung out their notes as though tugging in uniſon, and fired from the walls; while the working party ſilently got off twenty-one eighteen pounders, with carriages, empty cartridges, rammers, &c.

Upon hearing the noiſe, and ſeeing the fire of the muſketry, the captain ordered the Aſia to fire a whole broadſide towards that part of the fort, where the deceiving party had ſecured themſelves, without intending any particular injury to the city. However, ſome of the ſhot flew into the city, and did damage.

This affair happened at a very late hour, between twelve and two, and threw the citizens into the utmoſt conſternation. The diſtreſs of the New Yorkers was very much encreaſed by a painful apprehenſion, that Capt. Vandeput would renew his firing upon the city. A removal of men, women, chil-

dren, and goods inſtantly commenced, and continued for ſome time. Matters were however ſo far adjuſted, as to quiet the apprehenſions of the people, in reference to their ſuffering further from the fire of the Aſia. To prevent it, the convention permitted Abraham Lott, Eſq. to ſupply all his majeſty's ſhips, ſtationed at New York, with all neceſſaries, as well freſh as ſalted, for the uſe of thoſe ſhips.

In the month of November, the general aſſembly of Rhode Iſland paſſed an act for the capital puniſhment of perſons, who ſhould be found guilty of holding a traiterous correſpondence with the miniſtry of Great Britain, or any of their officers or agents, or of ſupplying the miniſterial army or navy, employed againſt the United Colonies, with proviſions, arms, &c. or of acting as pilots on board any of their veſſels. They alſo paſſed an act for ſequeſtering the eſtates of ſeveral perſons, whom they conſidered as avowed enemies to the liberties of America.

On the night of the 26th of Auguſt, about 2000 American troops entrenched on Plowed-hill, within point blank ſhot of the Britiſh on Bunker's-hill; and notwithſtading a continual fire almoſt all the day following, they had only two killed and two wounded. The Britiſh finding that their firing did not anſwer, relaxed, and after a while deſiſted entirely,

entirely, and the Americans remained quiet in their new poſt.

In the beginning of September, General Waſhington received a very acceptable remittance of 7000 pounds weight of powder, which had been very ſcarce in the American army.

Gen. Waſhington, having received pleaſing accounts from Canada, being aſſured that neither Indians nor Canadians could be prevailed upon to act againſt the Americans, concerted the plan of detaching a body of troops from the head quarters, acroſs the country to Quebec. He communicated the ſame to Gen. Schuyler, who approved it, and all things were got in readineſs. They ſet out on the expedition on the 13th of September, under the command of Col. Arnold, aſſiſted by the Colonels Green and Enos, and Majors Megis and Bigelaw, the whole force amounting to about eleven hundred men.

On the 18th of October, Capt. Morvat deſtroyed 139 houſes, 278 ſtores and other buildings, the far greater and better part of the town of Falmouth, in the northern part of the Maſſachuſetts. The inhabitants, in compliance with a reſolve of the provincial congreſs, to prevent tories carrying out their effects, gave ſome violent obſtruction to the loading of a maſt ſhip, which drew upon them the indignation of the Britiſh admiral.

In the mean time, Gen. Montgomery was ſent forward to Ticonderoga with a body of troops; and being arrived at the Iſle aux Noix, he drew up a declaration, which he ſent among the Canadians by Col. Allen and Major Brown, aſſuring them, that the army was deſigned only againſt the Engliſh gariſons, and not againſt the country, their liberties, or religion.

Col. Allen and Major Brown being on their return, after executing the commiſſion, with which the general had entruſted them, the latter adviſed Col. Allen to halt, and propoſed, that the colonel ſhould return to Longueil, procure canoes and croſs the river St. Lawrence, a little north of Montreal, while he, the major, croſſed a little to the ſouth of the town, with near 200 men, as he had boats ſufficient. The plan was approved, and Col. Allen paſſed the river in the night. The major, by ſome means, failed on his part, and Col. Allen found himſelf, the next morning, in a critical ſituation, but concluded on defending himſelf. Gen. Carleton, learning how weak Col. Allen was, marched out againſt him with about forty regulars, together with Canadians, Engliſh, and Indians, amounting to ſome hundreds. The colonel defended himſelf with much bravery; but being deſerted by ſeveral, chiefly Canadians, and having had fifteen of his men killed, was under the neceſſity

ceſſity of ſurrendering with thirty-one effectives and ſeven wounded. He was directly put in irons.

On the 4th of October, a party of Canadians, who had joined and greatly aſſiſted the beſigers, entrenched themſelves on the eaſt ſide of the lake, on which the enemy ſent an armed ſloop with troops to drive them away; but the Canadians attacked the ſloop with vigour, killed a number of the men, and obliged her to return to St. John's in a ſhattered condition.

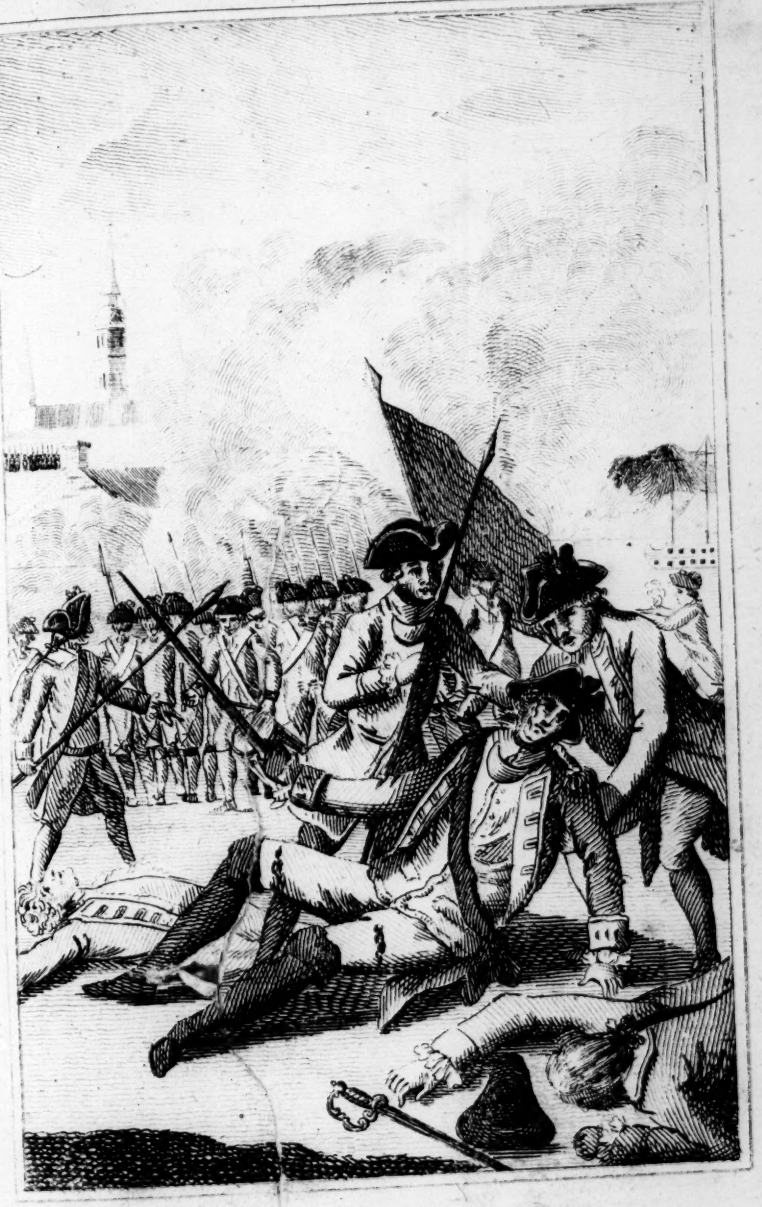
On the 7th, the main body of the army decamped from the ſouth, and marched to the north ſide of the fort. In the evening, they began to throw up a breaſt-work, in order to erect a battery of cannon and mortars. The continental troops brought ſuch a ſpirit of liberty into the field, and thought ſo freely for themſelves, that they would not bear either ſubordination or diſcipline. The generals could not in truth direct their operations, and would not have ſtayed an hour at their head, had they not feared that the example would be too generally followed, and ſo have injured the public ſervice. There was a great want of powder, which, with the diſorderly behaviour of the troops, was a damp to the hope of terminating the ſiege ſucceſsfully. The proſpect, however, ſoon brightened, for the Americans planned an attack upon Chamblée, and in batteaus carried down

down the artillery, paſt the fort of St. John's. After a ſhort demur, it ſurrendered to the majors Brown and Livingſton. The greateſt acquiſition was about ſix tons of powder, which gave great encouragement to the provincials.

On the 12th of November, Gen. Montgomery preſſed on to Montreal, which, not being capable of making any defence, Gov. Carleton quitted it one day, and the American general entered it the next.

Notwithſtanding the advanced ſeaſon of the year, Gen. Montgomery marched on for the capital, and on the 5th of December appeared before Quebec. The garriſon conſiſted of about fifteen hundred, while the beſiegers were ſaid to conſiſt of little more than half that number. Upon his appearing before the city, he ſent forward a flag of truce, which was fired upon by order of Sir Guy Carleton. At this Gen. Montgomery was ſo provoked, that the next day he wrote to Sir Guy, and in his letter departed from the common mode of conveying his ſentiments; he made uſe of threats and language, which in his cooler moments he would have declined.

In ſpite of the inclemency of the ſeaſon, he ſet about erecting works. His batteries were compoſed of ſnow and water, which ſoon became ſolid ice. He planted on them five pieces of ordnance, twelve and nine pounders,



Death of Gen.l Montgomery.

MUSEUM

pounders, with one howitzer; but the artillery was inadequate, and made no impreſſion.

In the evening, a council was held by all the commanding officers of Col. Arnold's detachment, and a large majority were for ſtorming the garriſon, as ſoon as the men were provided with bayonets, ſpears, hatchets, and hand-granades. The plan of ſtorming the garriſon was wholly the work of Gen. Montgomery, who, in the council of war held on the occaſion, ſhewed the neceſſity, practicability, and importance of it, in ſuch a clear and convincing manner, that they unanimouſly agreed to the meaſure. The attempt had the appearance of raſhneſs; but the general was perſuaded that men, who had behaved ſo bravely, would follow him, and that Sir Guy Carleton's forces would not fight, when actual ſervice commenced.

On the 31ſt of December, the troops aſſembled at the hour appointed. They were to make the attack by the way of Cape Diamond, at the general's quarters on the heights of Abraham, and were headed by the general himſelf. Col. Arnold was to make the attack through the ſuburbs of St. Roe. Col. Livingſton and Major Brown were to make a falſe attack upon the walls, to the ſouthward of St. John's gate, and in the mean time to ſet fire to the gate with the combuſtibles prepared for that purpoſe. The colonel was alſo to give the ſignals for the combination of the attacks,

tacks, which were to begin exactly at five o'clock. It is ſaid that Capt. Fraſer, of the regulars, who was then on piquet, going his rounds, ſaw the rockets fired off as ſignals, and, forming a conjecture of what was going forwards, beat to arms without orders, and ſo prepared the garriſon for defence.

The different routs the aſſailing bodies had to make, the depth of the ſnow, and other obſtacles, prevented the execution of Livingſton's command. The general moved with his diviſion, attended by a number of carpenters, to the piquets at Cape Diamond. Theſe were ſoon cut with the ſaws, and the general pulled them down himſelf. He then entered, attended by the carpenters and ſome of his officers.

On their entrance, their guides forſook them, which alarmed the general and other officers, who were unacquainted with the paſs and ſituation of the enemy's artillery. However, they preſſed on, and the general, obſerving that the troops did not follow with ſpirit, called out, "Fie, for ſhame! will the New York troops deſert the cauſe in this critical moment? Will you not follow when your general leads? Puſh on, brave boys, Quebec is ours." A few acted with reſolution, advanced, and attacked the guard-houſe, when the enemy gave a diſcharge of grape-ſhot from their cannon, and alſo of ſmall arms, which proved fatal to the general, his

aide

aide de camp, Capt. Cheeſeman, and others. The firing from the guard-houſe ceaſed, by the enemy's quitting their poſt, and the opportunity offered for the aſſailants to puſh forward with ſucceſs; but the Deputy Quarter-maſter General, Campbell, with the rank of a colonel, aſſumed the command, ordered a retreat, which took place, and the wounded were carried off to the camp.

The diviſion under Col. Arnold was equally unſucceſsful. The colonel received a wound in one of his legs from a muſket ball, and was carried to the general hoſpital. His men maintained their ground till ten o'clock, when, all hopes of relief being over, they were at laſt obliged to ſurrender priſoners of war. In this attack the provincials loſt upwards of an hundred men. Gen. Montgomery was ſhot through both his thighs and his head. His body was taken up the next day, an elegant coffin was prepared, and he was ſoon after decently interred. The general was tall and ſlender, well limbed, of eaſy, graceful, and manly addreſs. He had the love, eſteem, and confidence of the whole army; he was of a good family in Ireland, and had ſerved with reputation in the late war with France. His excellent qualities and diſpoſition procured him an uncommon ſhare of private affection, and his abilities of public eſteem. His death was conſidered as a greater

a greater loſs to the American cauſe, than all the others with which it was accompanied.

When the continental troops had connected after the unſucceſsful attack on Quebec, there aroſe a diſpute who ſhould command, and whether it was adviſeable to raiſe the ſiege, or wait till a reinforcement ſhould arrive. A council of war agreed, that Col. Arnold ſhould command, and ſhould continue the ſiege, or rather the blockade, which was accordingly done, apparently at no ſmall riſk, as they had not more than four hundred men fit for duty; but they retired about three miles from the city, and poſted themſelves advantageouſly.

Memorable Events recorded in this Chapter.

Anno 1775.

The expedition againſt Ticonderoga.
Geo. Waſhington, Eſq. elected commander in chief of the continental forces.
The battle of Bunker's-hill.
Georgia acceeds to the Union.
The Thirteen United Colonies.
The Aſia man of war fires upon New York.
Col. Arnold's expedition into Canada.
Falmouth deſtroyed, and on what account.
Col Allen taken priſoner, and put in irons.
Gen. Montgomery appears before Quebec, and is killed there.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

LET us now return to Boſton and its environs, and ſee what was tranſacting there. On the 15th of February, 1776, the ſtrength of the ice having been tried in one place, and the froſt continuing, Gen. Waſhington was deſirous of embracing the ſeaſon for paſſing over it, from Cambridge ſide into Boſton. He laid before the council of war the following queſtion: "A ſtroke well aimed at this critical juncture may put a final period to the war, and reſtore peace and tranquillity ſo much to be wiſhed for; and therefore, whether part of Cambridge and Roxborough bays being frozen over, a general aſſault ſhould not be made on Boſton?"

Gen. Ward oppoſed the idea, ſaying, "The attack muſt be made with a view of bringing on an engagement, or of driving the enemy out of Boſton, and either end will be anſwered much better by poſſeſſing Dorcheſter heights." When the votes were called for, the majority were againſt the attack. It was however determined to poſſeſs themſelves of Dorcheſter heights, which was accordingly afterwards accompliſhed.

On the 5th of March, the Britiſh admiral informed Gen. Howe, that if the Americans poſſeſſed thoſe heights, he could not keep

one of his majeſty's ſhips in the harbour. Every deſign of Gen. Howe to force the American works on the hill being fruſtated, a counſel of war was called, when it was agreed to evacuate the town as ſoon as poſſible. The time that had been gained by the Americans for ſtrengthening their works, took away all hopes of any ſucceſsful attempts to be made on them by the Britiſh forces. The Americans had provided a great number of barrels, filled with ſtones, gravel and ſand, which were placed round the works, ready to be rolled down, with a view to break the lines of any hoſtile advancing troops, when aſcending the hills.

On the 7th of March, there was a general hurry and confuſion in Boſton, every one, in the royal intereſt, being buſy in preparing to quit the town, and to carry off every thing that was valuable. A flag was ſent out from the ſelect men, acquainting Gen. Waſhington with the intention of the troops, and that Gen. Howe was diſpoſed to leave the town ſtanding, provided he could retire uninterrupted. Gen. Waſhington bound himſelf under no obligation, but expreſſed himſelf in words, which admitted of a favourable conſtruction, and intimated his good wiſhes for the preſervation of Boſton. At four o'clock, in the morning of the 17th, the embarkation was completed, and before ten the whole fleet was under ſail, and the provincials

vincials ſoon after took poſſeſſion of the town.

Let us now take a view of what was doing in Virginia. Towards the cloſe of 1775, the Liverpool frigate arrived at Norfolk from Great Britain. Soon after, the captain ſent a flag of truce, and demanded to be informed, whether his majeſty's ſhip of war would be ſupplied from the ſhore with proviſions. The reply was in the negative; and the ſhips in the harbour being continually annoyed by the riflemen from behind the buildings and warehouſes on the wharfs, it was determined to diſlodge them by deſtroying the town.

Previous notice was given, that the women, children, and other innocent perſons, might remove from the danger. The entrance of the new year was ſignalized, at four o'clock in the morning, by a violent cannonade, from the Liverpool, two ſloops of war, and the governor's armed ſhip the Dunmore, ſeconded by parties of ſailors and marines, who landed and fired the houſes next the water. Where buildings, inſtead of being covered with tile, ſlate, or lead, are covered with ſhingles, (thin light pieces of fir or cedar, half a yard in length, and about ſix inches broad) let the wind be ever ſo moderate, they will, upon being fired, be likely to communicate the conflagration to a diſtance, ſhould the weather be dry, by the

burning ſhingles being driven by the force of the flames to the tops of other houſes.

Thus the whole town was reduced to aſhes, that the Americans might have no ſhelter, ſhould they be inclined to eſtabliſh a poſt on the ſpot. A few men were killed and wounded at the burning of Norfolk, the moſt populous and conſiderable town for commerce of any in Virginia. It contained about 6000 inhabitants, and many in affluent circumſtances. The whole loſs was eſtimated at more than three hundred thouſand pounds ſterling. However urgent the neceſſity, it was an odious ſight to ſee the governor, Lord Dunmore, a principal actor in burning and deſtroying the beſt town in his government. The horrid diſtreſſes brought upon numbers of innocent perſons, by theſe operations, muſt wound the feelings of all who are not hardened by a party ſpirit.

While matters were thus tranſacting in America, the miniſtry at home gave into great expences, to ſupply the army at Boſton with freſh proviſions and other articles. Sir Peter Parker and Earl Cornwallis, with the Acteon and Thunder bomb, ſailed from Portſmouth for Corke, to convoy the troops and tranſports there to America; but, owing to ſome delays, the fleet did not ſail before the 13th of February. It conſiſted of forty-three ſail, and about 2500 troops.

On

On the 14th of March, a freſh attempt was made in the houſe of lords, to prevent a continuance of hoſtilities, which ſo far ſucceeded, that in the May following, letters patent, by his Majeſty's orders, paſſed under the great ſeal, conſtituting Lord Howe and Gen. Howe, to be his majeſty's commiſſioners for reſtoring peace to the colonies in North America, and for granting pardon to ſuch of his majeſty's ſubjects there, then in rebellion, as ſhould deſerve the royal mercy. The ſame month, Commodore Hotham, with all the tranſports, having the firſt diviſion of Heſſians on board, ſailed from St. Helen's for North America. But let us return to Canada, and attend to what was going forward in that quarter.

The blockade of Quebec was continued; but the fears of the Americans were great, as they had no more than 400 men to do duty, while there were upwards of three times the number in the city; they were in daily expectation that the beſieged would ſally out upon them. At length, a ſmall reinforcement arrived, which enabled them to take a little more reſt, though the army was again ſoon reduced by the ſmall-pox that broke out among them.

Towards the end of May, ſeveral regiments arrived from England, and the Britiſh forces in Canada were eſtimated at about 13,000 men. The general rendezvous was

appointed to be at Three Rivers, half way between Quebec and Montreal. The Americans now formed a plan to ſurpriſe the Britiſh troops, and for that purpoſe marched under cover of the night, on the 8th of June, in order to attack them a little before day-break. Gen. Thompſon, who commanded in this expedition, had procured a Canadian guide, who was either ignorant or unfaithful; for, a little before ſun-riſe, he found his forces were out of the proper road. They returned, but loſing their way by the ſide of the river, they were ſoon in view of ſome of the enemy's boats, between which and the flanking party ſeveral balls were exchanged. They then quickened their pace, and continued advancing in ſight of the ſhipping, with drums beating and fifes playing, as they knew they were diſcovered. The general, judging there was no poſſibility of paſſing the ſhips, without being expoſed to all their fire, and yet determining to perſiſt in the expedition, filed off at a right angle from the river. He meant to take a circuitous route, and enter the town on the back ſide. A bad moraſs interpoſed, the troops entered it, and the men were almoſt mired. About nine o'clock, they came to a cleared ſpot, formed, and got into ſome order about ten. They advanced, but before the rear had got off the place of formation, the front received a heavy fire from the enemy, which ſtruck them with terror.

terror. The fire was inſtantly repeated, and though the balls flew over the heads of the troops, without doing any material execution, they gave way, and crowded back, in the utmoſt confuſion, which left them without a leader, ſo that every one did as he pleaſed. They turned their faces up the river, and haſtened through the ſwamp as faſt as poſſible. About eleven they began to collect, and ſoon learned from the Canadians, that the enemy had ſent a detachment, with ſeveral field-pieces by land, to cut off their retreat, and a party by water to ſeize their boats. About four they were told, that the enemy had ſecured the bridge before them, which it was ſuppoſed they muſt paſs. They were alſo ſoon convinced, that a large body was cloſely in their rear. Col. Maxwell ordered all who had collected together to halt, called the officers to him, and ſaid, "What ſhall we do? Shall we fight thoſe in the front or in the rear? Shall we tamely ſubmit? or ſhall we turn off into the woods, and each man ſhift for himſelf?" The laſt propoſal was preferred; but the enemy was ſo near, that the rear of the Americans was expoſed to another tremendous fire, while going down the hill into the woods, but the balls flew over them without injuring any. The perſon, who was entruſted with the care of the boats, had removed them in time to a ſecure place; ſo that the loſs of the Americans, which

which muſt otherwiſe have been much greater, amounted only to about 200 priſoners.

The troops that eſcaped began to collect about ten the next day, and by noon were conſiderably numerous. They got along by degrees, and by ſun-ſet the day following arrived oppoſite Sorel. Gen. Thompſon and Col. Irwin, the ſecond in command, with ſome other officers, were taken. The killed and wounded of the king's troops were trifling.

The king's forces having joined at Three Rivers, proceeded by land and water to Sorel, off which the fleet arrived in the evening, a few hours after the rear of the Americans had left it. A conſiderable body was landed, and the command of the column given to Gen. Burgoyne, with inſtructions to purſue the continental army up the river to St. John's, but without hazarding any thing till another column on his right ſhould be able to co-operate with him. Sir Guy Carleton's extraordinary precaution to put nothing to hazard, when not abſolutely neceſſary, gave the Americans the opportunity of eſcaping. Had Burgoyne been inſtructed to preſs on with the utmoſt expedition, great numbers of the provincials muſt have been made priſoners, and but few would have croſſed Lake Champlain. Thus ended the expedition againſt Quebec.

To return to Boſton. The Britiſh Commodore Banks, omitting to leave cruiſers in the bay, afforded an opportunity to the American privateers of taking a number of Highlanders. Three days after his quitting it, the George and Annabella tranſports entered, after a paſſage of ſeven weeks from Scotland, during the courſe of which they had not an opportunity of ſpeaking with a ſingle veſſel, that could give them the ſmalleſt information of the Britiſh troops having evacuated Boſton. They were attacked in the morning by four privateers, with whom they engaged till the evening, when the privateers bore away, and the tranſports puſhed for Boſton harbour, not doubting but they ſhould there receive protection, either from a fort or ſhip of force ſtationed for the ſecurity of Britiſh veſſels. They ſtood up for Nantucket road, when an American battery opened upon them, which was the firſt ſerious proof they had of the ſituation of affairs at the port to which they were deſtined. They were too far embayed to retreat, as the wind had died away, and the tide was half expended. The privateers, with which they had been engaged, joined by two others, made towards them. They prepared for action; but, by ſome misfortune, the Annabella got a-ground ſo far aſtern of the George, that the latter expected but a feeble ſupport from her muſketry. About eleven at night, the privateers anchored

cloſe

cloſe by, and hailed them to ſtrike the Britiſh flag. The mate of the George, and every ſailor on board, the captain excepted, refuſed to fight any longer; but the officers and privates of the ſeventy-firſt regiment ſtood to their quarters till all their ammunition was expended, when they were forced to yield. They had eight privates and a major killed, beſides ſeventeen wounded. The number of Highlanders taken were 267 privates, 48 officers, beſides Lieut. Col. Campbell.

On the 25th of June, Gen. Howe arrived at Sandy Hook in the Greyhound frigate. He ſoon received from Gov. Tryon a full account of the ſtate and diſpoſition of the province, as well as of the ſtrength of the Americans. Gen. Waſhington's army was ſmall, rather below 9000 fit for duty. Of this little army, it was ſaid, at leaſt 2000 were wholly deſtitute of arms, and nearly as many with arms in ſuch condition as to be rather calculated to diſcourage than animate the uſer. On the 2d of July, Gen. Howe's troops took poſſeſſion of Staten Iſland.

On the firſt of July, congreſs reſolved itſelf into a committee of the whole, upon the ſubject of independence; but neither colonies nor members being unanimous, it was poſtponed till the next day. On the fourth, they had it under further conſideration, when the declaration of independence was

was agreed to and adopted. The title of it was,

" *A Declaration by the Repreſentatives of the United States of America in Congreſs aſſembled.*"

The preamble follows in theſe words.—" When, in the courſe of human events, it becomes neceſſary for one people to diſſolve the political bands, which have connected them with another, and to aſſume, among the powers of the earth, the ſeparate and equal ſtation, to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent reſpect to the opinions of mankind require that they ſhould declare the cauſes that impel them to the ſeparation.

" We hold theſe truths to be ſelf-evident, that all men are created equal—that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unaleinable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the purſuit of happineſs—that to ſecure theſe rights, governments are inſtituted among men, deriving their juſt powers from the conſent of the governed — that whenever any form of government becomes deſtructive of theſe ends, it is the right of the people to alter or aboliſh it, and to inſtitute a new government, laying its foundations upon ſuch principles, and organiſing its powers in ſuch form, as to them ſhall ſeem moſt

moſt likely to effect their ſafety and happineſs. Prudence, indeed, will dictate, that governments long eſtabliſhed, ſhould not be changed for light and tranſient cauſes; and accordingly all experience hath ſhown, that mankind are more diſpoſed to ſuffer, while evils are ſufferable, than to right themſelves by aboliſhing the forms to which they are accuſtomed. But when a long train of abuſes and uſurpations, purſuing invariably the ſame object, evinces a deſign to reduce them under abſolute deſpotiſm, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off ſuch government, and to provide new guards for their future ſecurity. Such has been the patient ſufferance of theſe colonies, and ſuch is now the neceſſity that conſtrains them to alter their former ſyſtems of government."

The declaration proceeds to give a hiſtory of repeated injuries and uſurpations, all having in direct object the eſtabliſhment of an abſolute tyranny over thoſe ſtates.

On the 8th of July, at twelve o'clock, the declaration of independence was proclaimed at the ſtate-houſe in Philadelphia, amidſt the greateſt acclamations. The next day, in conſequence of general orders, it was read at the head of each brigade of the continental army at New York, and every where received with loud huzzas, and the utmoſt demonſtrations of joy. The ſame evening, the equeſtrian ſtatue of the king

was

was laid proſtrate on the ground, and the lead of which it was made was doomed to be run into bullets.

On the 14th of Auguſt, Lord Dunmore quitted Virginia, and joined the Britiſh forces. He arrived with Lord Campbell and Sir Peter Parker off Staten Iſland. His lordſhip continued on the coaſts, and in the rivers of Virginia, till the cloſeneſs and filth of the ſmall veſſels, in which the fugitives were crowded, together with the heat of the weather, the badneſs and ſcarcity of water and proviſions, produced a peſtilential fever, which made great havock, eſpecially among the negroes, many of whom were ſwept away. When at length every place was ſhut againſt him, and neither water nor proviſions were to be obtained, but at the expence of blood, it was found neceſſary to burn ſeveral of the ſmaller and leaſt valuable veſſels, to prevent their falling into the hands of the Americans, and to ſend the remainder, with the exiled friends of government, to ſeek ſhelter in Florida, Bermudas, and the Weſt Indies.

Lord Howe arrived off Halifax towards the end of June, and from thence proceeded to New York, and reached Staten Iſland by the 12th of July. From thence he ſent on ſhore by a flag to Amboy, a circular letter, together with a declaration to ſeveral of the late governors of the colonies, acquainting them with his powers, and de-

ſiring them to publiſh the ſame as generally as poſſible, for the information of the people. But it was now too late to bring them back to the obedience of the mother country, ſince the declaration of independence had been every where ſolemnly read.

In the month of Auguſt, Gen. Howe finding himſelf ſufficiently ſtrong to attempt ſomething, reſolved on making a deſcent on Long iſland. The neceſſary meaſures being taken by the fleet for covering the deſcent, the army was landed, without oppoſition, between two ſmall towns, Utrecht and Graveſend, not far from the Narrows, on the neareſt ſhore to Staten Iſland.

On this iſland are ſeveral paſſes through the mountains or hills, which are eaſily defenſible, being very narrow, and the lands high and mountainous on each ſide. Theſe were the only roads that could be paſſed from the ſouth ſide of the hills to the American lines, except a road leading round the eaſterly end of the hills to Jamaica. An early attention had been given to the importance of theſe paſſes. To the ſecond of them, the ſmall American parties, patroling on the coaſts, retired upon the approach of the Britiſh boats with the troops. Lord Cornwallis puſhed on immediately with the reſerve and ſome other forces; but finding the Americans in poſſeſſion of the paſs, in compliance with orders, he riſked no attack.

The

The Americans had on each of the three paſſes or roads a guard of 800 men; and to the eaſt of them in the wood, Col. Miles was placed with his battalion to guard the road from the ſouth of the hills to Jamaica, and to watch the motion of the enemy on that ſide, with orders to keep a party conſtantly reconnoitring to and acroſs the Jamaica road. The centinels were ſo placed as to keep a continual communication between the three guards on the three roads.

On the 26th of Auguſt, Gen. Howe, having fully ſettled a plan of ſurprize, Gen. de Heiſter, with his Heſſians, took poſt at Flatbuſh in the evening, and compoſed the centre. About nine o'clock the ſame night, the principal army, containing much the greater part of the Britiſh forces, under the commands of Gen. Clinton, Earl Percy, and Lord Cornwallis, marched in order to gain the road leading round the eaſterly end of the hills to Jamaica, and ſo to turn the left of the Americans. Col. Miles, whoſe duty it was to guard this road, ſuffered the Britiſh to march not leſs than ſix miles, till they were near two miles in the rear of the guards, before he diſcovered and gave notice of their approach.

The next day, before day-break, Gen. Clinton arrived within half a mile of the road, when he halted, and ſettled his diſpoſition for the attack. One of his patroles fell

in with a patrol of American officers on horſeback, who were trepanned and made priſoners. Gen. Sullivan, though in expectation that they would bring him intelligence, neglected ſending out a freſh patrol on finding himſelf diſappointed. Clinton, learning from the captured officers, that the Americans had not occupied the road, detached a battalion of light infantry to ſecure it, and advancing with his troops upon the firſt appearance of day, poſſeſſed himſelf of the heights that commanded the road.

About midnight, the guard, conſiſting all of New Yorkers and Pennſylvanians, perceiving that there was danger at hand, fled without firing a gun, and carried to Gen. Parſons, who commanded them, the account of the enemy's advancing in great numbers by that road. Gen. Grant's movements were to divert the attention of the Americans from the left, where the main attack was to be made by Gen. Clinton. By day-light, Gen. Parſons perceived, that the Britiſh were got through the wood, and were deſcending on the north ſide. He took twenty of his fugitive guard, being all he could collect, and poſted them on a height in front of the Britiſh, about half a mile diſtant, which halted their column, and gave time for Lord Stirling to come up with his forces, amounting to about 1500, who poſſeſſed himſelf

himſelf of a hill about two miles from the camp.

The engagement began ſoon after day-break, by the Heſſians from Flatbuſh, under Gen. Heiſter, and by Gen. Grant on the coaſt; and a warm cannonade, with a briſk fire of ſmall arms, were eagerly ſupported on both ſides for ſome conſiderable time. The Americans oppoſing Gen. Heiſter were the firſt who were appriſed of the march of the Britiſh troops under Gen. Clinton. They accordingly retreated in large bodies, and in tolerable order, to recover their camp; but they were ſoon interrupted by the right wing under Gen. Clinton, who, having halted and refreſhed his forces after paſſing the heights, continued his march, and getting into the rear of the left of the Americans, about half paſt eight o'clock, attacked them with his light infantry and light dragoons, while quitting the heights to return to their lines. They were driven back, and again met the Heſſians, and thus were they alternately chaced and intercepted. In theſe deſperate circumſtances, ſome of their regiments, overpowered and out-numbered as they were, forced their way to the camp, through all the dangers with which they were preſſed.

The Americans under Lord Stirling, who were engaged with Gen. Grant, behaved with great bravery and reſolution; but were

ſo late in their knowledge of what paſſed elſewhere, that their retreat was intercepted by ſome of the Britiſh troops, who, beſides turning the hills and the American left, had traverſed the whole extent of country in their rear. Several broke through the enemy's line, and got into the woods. Gen. Parſons, with a ſmall party, eſcaped by doing the ſame; numbers threw themſelves into the marſh at Gorvan's Cove, ſome were drowned, and others periſhed in the mud. However, a conſiderable body eſcaped to the lines. The nature of the country, and the variety of the ground, occaſioned a continuance and extenſion of ſmall engagements, purſuits and ſlaughter, which laſted for many hours before the ſcene cloſed.

The Britiſh troops diſplayed great valour and activity on this occaſion. So impetuous was their ardour, that it was with difficulty they could be reſtrained, by Gen. Howe's orders, from attacking the American lines. They would probably have entered them, had not the works been completed the night before the action, by cloſing an opening on the right, and placing an abbatis before it. The Americans were moſt completely ſurpriſed and effectually entrapped. Col. Smallwood's Maryland regiment ſuffered extremely, and was almoſt cut to pieces, loſing 259 men. The loſs was much regretted, on account of their being young men of the beſt families in the

the country. All who were engaged in the actions of this day did not diſplay the ſame courage; nor was it to be expected from ſuch raw troops. Many eſcaped from the want of diſcipline; for they broke at the ſight of danger, and ſaved themſelves by flight, whereas otherwiſe they muſt have been killed or taken. Large bodies however were captured. Gen. Sullivan, Lord Stirling, and Gen. Udell, beſides three colonels, four lieutenant-colonels, three majors, 18 captains, 43 lieutenants, 11 enſigns, an adjutant, three ſurgeons, and two volunteers, were made priſoners, together with 1006 privates in all 1097. As among the priſoners the wounded were included, an allowance of between four and five hundred for killed, drowned, periſhed in the woods, the mud, and the like, may be reckoned about the mark. The loſs of the Britiſh, in killed and wounded, did not exceed 318, of whom only 61 were killed. After the battle, the Americans retreated to New York, to which place they croſſed over under the favour of a fog, taking with them all their military ſtores, and leaving nothing behind them but a few pieces of cannon, and ſome trifling matters.

Memorable

Memorable Events recorded in this Chapter.

Anno 1776.

Gen. Howe evacuates Boſton.
Norfolk in Virginia burnt.
Sir Peter Parker and Earl Cornwallis ſail for America.
The blockade of Quebec continued.
The Americans raiſe the blockade and retreat.
A number of Highlanders taken in Boſton bay.
Declaration of American independence.
Gen. Howe lands the royal army on Long Iſland, and drives the Americans off it.

CHAP. VI.

AFTER the affair of Long Iſland, endeavours were uſed by the Americans to keep up the ſpirits of the people, by puffing accounts of the extraordinary bravery of their troops, and the deſtruction they made of the enemy. But that matters were not very promiſing appears from a letter of Gen. Mercer, who commanded the flying camp, dated Sept. the 4th, wherein he writes. "Gen. Waſhington has not, ſo far as I have ſeen, 5000 men to be depended on for the ſervice of a campaign; and I have not 1000. Both our

our armies are compoſed of raw militia, perpetually fluctuating between the camp and their farms; poorly armed, and ſtill worſe diſciplined. Theſe are not a match for, were their numbers equal to, veteran troops, well fitted and urged on by able officers. Numbers and diſcipline muſt at laſt prevail. Giving ſoldiers, or even the lower orders of mankind, the choice of officers, will for ever mar the diſcipline of armies."

Gen. Howe, having fully prepared for a deſcent on New York Iſland, embarked a ſtrong diviſion of the army under the command of Gen. Clinton and others, in boats, at the head of Newtown inlet, and at another place higher up, where they could not be obſerved by the Americans, who expected the attack would be made on the ſide next to the Eaſt river, and had therefore thrown up lines and works to defend themſelves.

On the 15th of September, about eleven o'clock, Gen. Howe's troops landed, under the cover of five ſhips of war, in two diviſions, the Heſſians in one place, and the Britiſh in another. As ſoon as Gen. Waſhington heard the firing of the men of war, he rode with all diſpatch towards the lines; but to his great mortification, found the troops poſted in them retreating with the utmoſt precipitation; and thoſe ordered to ſupport them, Parſons's and Fellows's brigade, flying in every direction, and in the greateſt confuſion.

confuſion. His attempts to ſtop them were fruitleſs, though he drew his ſword, threatened to run them through, and cocked and ſnapped his piſtols.

On the appearance of a ſmall party of the enemy, not more than ſixty or ſeventy, their diſorder was encreaſed, and they ran off without firing a ſingle ſhot, leaving the general in a hazardous ſituation, ſo that his attendants, to extricate him out of it, caught the bridle of his horſe, and gave him a different direction.

Three large ſhips were ſtationed in the North river, oppoſite to thoſe in the Eaſt river, and both kept up a conſtant cannonading with grape-ſhot and langrage quite acroſs the iſland. The Heſſians, upon their landing, ſeized and ſecured, in a neighbouring building, as enemies, ſome perſons who had been placed there to ſerve as guides, which for a while ſubjected them to a difficulty.

When the regulars were completely landed, they advanced towards the Kingſbridge road. The American brigades, which had fled on the enemy's approaching the lines, did not ſtop till they were met by Col. Glover's and five other brigades, who were haſtening down to them. As ſoon as they joined, the whole marched forward, and took poſt on ſome heights, when ſuddenly 8000 of the enemy appeared on the next height, and halted

halted. Gen. Washington at first consented, that his troops should march forward, and give them battle; but, on a second consideration, he gave counter orders, as he could not have any dependence on the militia and the flying camp, which composed half the number then present. When the Americans retired, and no prospect of action remained, the English took possession of New York.

Gen. Washington, while moving the army from New York, into the country, was careful to march and form the troops, so as to make a front towards the enemy, from East Chester almost to White Plains, on the east side of the highway, thereby to secure the march of those who were behind on their right, and to defend the removal of the sick, cannon, and other matters of consequence; but the want of many necessary articles considerably retarded their march.

On the 25th of October, the royal army moved in two columns, and took a position they thought the most advantageous. Observing, however, that Gen. Washington's lines were much strengthened by additional works, he deferred all further attack till the arrival of more troops. Several skirmishes had already taken place, but nothing decisive had yet happened.

On the last day of October, Gen. Howe, being joined by the troops from Lord Percy, made dispositions for attacking the American

can lines early the next morning; but an extreme wet night and morning prevented the execution at the time appointed, and it was not attempted afterwards, though the day proved fair. Gen. Waſhington gained intelligence of his danger from a deſerter, when he drew off moſt of his troops at night, totally evacuated his camp early in the morning of the firſt of November, and took higher ground towards the North Caſtle diſtrict; leaving a ſtrong rear-guard on the heights and in the woods of White Plains. Orders were given by Gen. Howe to attack this corps; but the execution of it was prevented by a violent rain.

Though this affair at White Plains made ſo much noiſe at the time in which it happened, no general action took place, and the Americans retreated, leaving the Engliſh in poſſeſſion of New York and the Jerſeys.

Gen. Waſhington, however, ſoon after made a deſcent on Jerſey, and at Trenton ſurpriſed and took priſoners 23 Heſſian officers, and 886 men of the ſame nation. In the evening, Gen. Waſhington repaſſed the Delaware, and retired to Pennſylvania.

From this period to the month of June, 1777, nothing paſſed in Jerſey but one continued ſcene of blood and ſlaughter among detached parties, without any deciſive advantages being gained by either ſide. On the 30th of June, at ten o'clock in the morning, the

the Engliſh troops began to croſs over to Staten Iſland, and the rear-guard paſſed at two in the afternoon, without the leaſt appearance of an enemy. Thus they evacuated the Jerſeys, to enter upon new conqueſts, in hopes of reducing the United States to unconditional ſubmiſſion.

Let us now turn to the Britiſh operations in the North, which were taken out of the hands of Sir Guy Carleton, and committed to the charge of Gen. Burgoyne. The forces allotted to them, conſiſting of Britiſh and German troops, amounted to more than 7000 men, excluſive of the artillery corps. A powerful braſs train of artillery was furniſhed, probably the fineſt, and the moſt excellently ſupplied as to officers and private men, that had ever been deſtined to ſecond the operations of an army not exceeding the preſent number. The army was, in every reſpect, in the beſt condition, the troops were in the higheſt ſpirits, admirably diſciplined, and uncommonly healthy.

The main body, under Gen. Burgoyne, proceeded up Lake Champlain, landed and encamped at no great diſtance from Crown Point, where he met the Indians in congreſs, and afterwards, in compliance with their cuſtoms, gave them a war-feaſt. He made a ſpeech to them, calculated to excite their ardour in the common cauſe, and at the ſame time to repreſs their barbarity. He conjured

them, to kill thoſe only who oppoſed them in arms; that old men, women, children, and priſoners, ſhould be held ſacred from the knife or hatchet, even in the heat of actual conflict; that they ſhould ſcalp thoſe only whom they had ſlain in fair oppoſition; but that under no pretence ſhould they ſcalp the wounded, or even dying, much leſs kill perſons in that condition. They were promiſed a compenſation for priſoners, but informed, that they ſhould be called to account for ſcalps.

On the near approach of the right wing of the royal army on the Ticonderoga ſide, the Americans abandoned their works towards Lake George, and left Gen. Phillips to poſſeſs the advantageous poſt of Mount Hope, without making any reſiſtance, which would have been ineffectual, and could have anſwered no good purpoſe. That apparent ſupineneſs and want of vigour, with which they were chargeable, was not occaſioned by cowardice, but actual imbecility.

Gen. Burgoyne's troops proceeded with much expedition, in the conſtruction of their works, the bringing up of artillery, ſtores, and proviſions; but what gave the greateſt alarm was, the rapid progreſs they made in clearing a road, and getting artillery on Sugar Hill. When once they had erected a battery on this height, only a few hours more would have

have been required to have inveſted the Americans on all ſides.

Gen. St. Clair, having received intelligence by ſpies, that in twenty-four hours the inveſtiture would be completed, when he ſhould be cut off from all poſſibility of ſuccour, Gen. Schuyler not having force ſufficient at fort Edward to relieve him, he determined to evacuate his poſts, though he knew it would produce ſuch aſtoniſhment as had not happened ſince the commencement of the war. He plainly perceived, that if he continued there, he ſhould loſe the army, but ſave his character; whereas, by abandoning the place, he ſhould ſave the army, and loſe his character. A council of war was called, and it was unanimouſly concluded upon to evacuate as ſoon as poſſible.

At two o'clock in the morning of July the 6th, Gen. St. Clair left Ticonderoga. About three the troops were put in motion for the evacuation of the Mount; but Fermoy having ſet fire to his houſe, contrary to poſitive orders, the whole Mount was enlightened by it, ſo that the enemy had an opportunity of ſeeing every thing that paſſed, which damped the ſpirits of the Americans, and induced them to puſh off in a diſorderly manner.

In the morning, Gen. Frazer, perceiving the evacuation, and that the Americans were retiring, commanded a purſuit with his bri-

gade, conſiſting of the light troops, grenadiers, and ſome other corps. Gen. Reideſel, with moſt of the Brunſwickers, was ordered by Gen. Burgoyne to join in the purſuit, either to ſupport Frazer, or to act ſeparately. The latter continued the purſuit through the day, and receiving intelligence, that St. Clair's rear was at no great diſtance, he ordered his troops to lie that night on their arms. In the morning, he came up with the Americans, commanded by Col. Warner, who had, beſides his own, the regiments of Colonels Francis and Hale. The Britiſh advanced boldly, and the two bodies formed within about ſixty yards of each other. Frazer began the attack about ſeven o'clock, expecting every moment to be joined by Reideſel, and apprehending, that if he delayed, the enemy would eſcape. Hale being apprized of the danger, never brought his regiment to the charge, but fled; ſo that Warner could bring into action no more than about 700 men. The conflict was bloody: Francis fell fighting with great bravery, and Warner, his officers, and ſoldiers, behaved with much reſolution and gallantry; ſo that the Britiſh broke and gave way, but ſoon formed again, and running on the Americans with their bayonets, the latter were put into no ſmall confuſion, which was encreaſed by the critical arrival of Gen. Reideſel with the foremoſt of his column, conſiſting of the Chaſſeur

Chaſſeur company, and eighty grenadiers and light infantry, who were immediately led into action. The Americans now fled on all ſides. Gen. St. Clair heard when the firing began, and would have ſupported Warner; but the troops that were neareſt, two militia regiments, would not obey orders, and the others were at too great a diſtance. Hale, who had attempted to get off by flight, fell in with an inconſiderable party of Britiſh, and ſurrendered himſelf and a number of his men priſoners. The Americans loſt 324 in killed, wounded, and priſoners, and among the laſt were 12 officers. The royal troops, including Britiſh and German, had not leſs than 183 killed and wounded.

The evacuation of Ticonderoga and Mount Independence ſurpriſed Gen. Waſhington, and ſpread aſtoniſhment and terror through the New England ſtates. The general was led to believe that the garriſon was much ſtronger. The Maſſachuſetts general-court were faulty, in not having ſeaſonably forwarded their quota of troops, agreeable to the requiſition of congreſs.

Let us now return to ſee what was doing Gen. Howe. The Britiſh fleet and army which lay at Sandy Hook, were deſtined for the reduction of Philadelphia, in purſuance of a plan which had been ſettled between Sir William Howe and Lord George Germain, but did not ſail till the 23d of July. The

land forces conſiſted of thirty-ſix Britiſh and Heſſian battalions, including the light infantry and grenadiers, with a powerful artillery, a New York corps, called Queen's Rangers, and a regiment of light horſe, eſtimated all together at about 16,000 men. The fleet conſiſted of 267 ſail. Gen. Howe's thus abandoning Burgoyne equally excited the aſtoniſhment of friends and enemies.

On the 14th of June, the congreſs reſolved, that the flag of the Thirteen United States be thirteen ſtripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen ſtars, white in a blue field, repreſenting a new conſtellation.

It was not till the third of September that the royal army began to move forwards. On its advancing near to the Americans, theſe abandoned their ground, perceiving that it would not anſwer their firſt expectation. They croſſed Brandywine at Chad's ford, and took poſſeſſion of the heights on the eaſt ſide of it, with an evident intention of diſputing the paſſage of the river; but the ſuperior numbers of the regular forces at laſt obliged them to retire.

A little after ſun-riſe on the 11th of September, a warm engagement commenced, which laſted till the approach of night. On this occaſion, the Americans ſhewed great reſolution and courage; but a few hours more of day-light might have ſo animated the conquering regulars, fatigued as they were,

as

as to have produced thoſe exertions, which would have been productive of a total and ruinous defeat to the Americans. It was ſaid, by the Americans themſelves, that in this action, their loſs in killed, wounded, and priſoners, was about twelve or thirteen hundred; and that the royal army did not ſuffer, on their part, ſhort of ſeven or eight hundred, in killed and wounded. The Americans alſo loſt ten ſmall field pieces, and a howitzer, of which all but one were braſs.

The evening after the battle, a party of regulars was ſent to Wilmington, who took the governor of the Delaware ſtate, Mr. M'Kenley, out of his bed, and poſſeſſed themſeles of a ſhallop lying in the creek, loaded with the rich effects of ſome of the inhabitants, together with the public records of the county, and a large quantity of public and private money, beſides articles of plate, and other things.

After various motions of the regular army, on the 26th of September, Gen. Howe made his triumphal entry into Philadelphia, with a ſmall part of his army, where he was moſt cordially received by the generality of the quakers, and a few other royaliſts. The bulk of his troops were left in and about German town, a village forming one continued ſtreet for near two miles. Gen. Waſhington's army was encamped near Shippach-creek, about eighteen miles from thence.

The

The congreſs, on the loſs of Philadelphia, removed to York-town.

To return to the northern army, under the command of Gen. Burgoyne. Several actions took place, between the Americans and regulars, in the intended march of the Britiſh towards Albany. In theſe different ſkirmiſhes, the regulars ſuffered very conſiderably, as well as the Indians in their intereſt. The principal action happened at Bennington, in which the Americans took from the Engliſh four braſs field pieces, twelve drums, 250 dragoon ſwords, four ammunition waggons, and about 700 priſoners, among whom was Lieut. Col. Baum.

On the 30th of Auguſt, the Engliſh commander had occaſion to write to Gen. Gates, and in his letter complained of inhumanity exerciſed towards the provincial ſoldiers in the king's ſervice after the affair of Bennington, and then hinted at retaliation. Gen. Gates, in his anſwer of Sept. the 2d, invalidated the charge, and then retorted the Indian cruelties, which he imputed to Burgoyne, ſaying, "Miſs M'Rea, a young lady, lovely to the ſight, of virtuous character, and amiable diſpoſition, engaged to an officer in your army, was, with other women and children, taken out of a houſe near Fort Edward, carried into the woods, and there murdered and mangled in a moſt ſhocking manner. Two parents

parents, with their ſix children, were all ſcalped and treated with the ſame inhumanity, while quietly reſiding in their once happy and peaceful dwellings. The miſerable fate of Miſs M'Rea was particularly aggravated, by her being dreſſed to receive her promiſed huſband, when ſhe met her murderer employed by you. Upwards of one hundred, men, women, and children, have periſhed by the hands of the ruffians, to whom, it is aſſerted, you have paid the price of blood." Gen. Burgoyne, in his reply of the 6th of the ſame month, vindicated his own character; ſhewed that Miſs M'Rea's death was no premeditated barbarity, and declared, that every other charge, exhibited by Gen. Gates, was ill-founded and erroneous.

The murder of Miſs M'Rea exaſperated the Americans, and from that and other cruelties occaſion was taken to blacken the royal party and army. The people deteſted that army which accepted of ſuch Indian aid, and loudly reprobated that government which could call in ſuch auxiliaries. Gen. Gates was not deficient in aggravating, by ſeveral publications, the exceſſes that had taken place, and with no ſmall advantage to his own military operations.

On the 18th of September, Gen. Burgoyne, having been very ſhort of proviſions, at length received a ſupply for about thirty days,

days, together with other neceſſary ſtores. He then reſolved upon paſſing the Hudſon's river with the army, which having executed, he encamped on the heights and on the plain of Saratoga. The Americans, obſerving the motions of the royal army, marched out 3000 ſtrong, in order to attack him, but found that to be prudentially impracticable. However, they drew up in full view of him, and there remained till dark.

The next day, ſome of the American ſcouting parties fell in with thoſe of the Britiſh, and with great boldneſs began the attack about one o'clock at noon. The firing was no ſooner heard by Gen. Philips, than he made his way, with a part of the artillery, through the woods, and rendered eſſential ſervices. Each commander ſupported, reinforced, and ordered different regiments to engage. The battle was hot and obſtinate on both ſides, till about half paſt two o'clock, when it ceaſed for half an hour. The American and Britiſh lines being fully formed, the action was renewed, and became general at three. Both armies appeared determined to conquer or die, and there was one continual blaze of fire for three hours without intermiſſion; the report of the muſkets reſembled an inceſſant roll-beating on a number of drums. The Americans and Britiſh alternately drove and were driven by each other. Three Britiſh regiments, the 20th, the 21ſt, and

and the 62d, were in conſtant and cloſe fire for near four hours. All ſuffered conſiderable loſs: the 62d, which was 500 ſtrong when it left Canada, was now reduced to leſs than 60 men, and to four or five officers. Few actions have been characteriſed, by more obſtinacy in attack or defence, than was the preſent. Both parties claimed the victory, though neither had much advantage to boaſt of.

From this time till near the middle of October, battles and ſkirmiſhes continually took place between the two armies, and the Britiſh were ſadly reduced and weakened. On the 13th Gen. Burgoyne, finding that the troops had only three days proviſions in ſtore, on ſhort allowance, and no apparent means of retreat remaining, called into council all the generals, field officers, and captains commanding troops. There was not a ſpot of ground in the whole camp for holding the council of war, but what was expoſed to cannon or rifle ſhot; and while the council was deliberating, an eighteen-pound ball croſſed the table. By the unanimous advice of the council, the general was induced to open a treaty with Gen. Gates. The firſt propoſals of the latter were rejected, and the ſixth article with diſdain, wherein it was required, that the Britiſh army ſhould lay down their arms in their intrenchments. Burgoyne's counter-propoſals were unanimouſly approved, and being ſent to Gates were agreed

agreed to, on the 15th, without any material alteration.

Gen. Gates being fearful of the conſequences that might follow, ſhould Gen. Vaughan with his troops come up in time to Burgoyne's aſſiſtance, determined upon bringing the matter to an immediate iſſue. On the morning of the 17th, he got every thing in readineſs for attacking the royal army. This done, he took out his watch, the time agreed for ſigning being come. He then ſent Col. Greaton on horſeback to Burgoyne with a meſſage, requiring the general to ſign, and allowed him no more than ten minutes to go and return. He was back in time, the treaty was ſigned, all hoſtile appearances ceaſed, and the Americans marched into the Britiſh lines to the tune of Yankee Doodle. They were kept there until the royal army had marched out of their lines, and depoſited their arms at the place appointed by the treaty.

The delicacy with which this buſineſs was conducted reflects the higheſt honour upon the American general. It intimated, that he was ſenſible of the mortification attending a reverſe of fortune, and that he was unwilling to aggravate the painful feelings of the royal troops, by admitting the American ſoldiers to be eye-witneſſes to the degrading ſpectacle of piling their arms. When the arms were depoſited agreeable to treaty, the royal

royal troops were ſerved with bread by the Americans, as they had not any left, nor flour to make it. They had only one day's ſalt meat remaining.

The treaty was ſtiled, "A convention between Lieut. Gen. Burgoyne and Major Gen. Gates." Among other articles it was ſtipulated, "That the troops under Lieut. Gen. Burgoyne ſhall march out of their camp with the honours of war, and the artillery of the entrenchments, to the verge of the river, where the arms and artillery are to be left.—The arms to be piled by word of command from their own officers.—A free paſſage to be granted to the royal army to Great Britain, upon condition of not ſerving again in North America during the preſent conteſt; and the port of Boſton to be aſſigned for the entry of tranſports to receive the troops, whenever Gen. Howe ſhall ſo order.—The officers baggage not to be moleſted or ſearched.—During the ſtay of the troops in the Maſſachuſetts bay, the officers are to be admitted on parole, and be allowed to wear their ſide-arms."

The return ſigned by Gen. Burgoyne, at the time of the convention, made the Britiſh army, including Germans, amount to 5791, which was very ſhort of the number they had on ſetting out from Canada. The train of braſs artillery, conſiſting of 42 pieces, was a fine acquiſition to the Americans. There

were alſo 4647 muſkets, 6000 dozen of cartridges, beſides ſhot, carcaſes, ſhells, &c.

Had Clinton advanced in time, Burgoyne would have been ſaved; but the troops he diſpatched under Gen. Vaughan amuſed themſelves with burning Æſopus, a fine village in the neighbourhood of Still-water. Gen. Vaughan, with a flood tide, might have reached Albany in four hours, as there was no force to hinder him. Had he proceeded thither, and burnt the ſtores, Gates, as he himſelf afterwards declared, muſt have retreated into New England.

Memorable Events recorded in this Chapter.

Anno 1776.

Wretched ſtate of the armies under the Generals Waſhington and Gates.
New York taken by the royal forces.
The battle of the White Plains.
A body of Heſſians defeated at Trenton.

Anno 1777.

Gen. Howe embarks his army from Staten Iſland.
Gen. Burgoyne proceeds to Crown Point.
Tyconderoga and Mount Independence evacuated.
Flag of the United States erected.

Battle

Battle at the Brandywine.
Account of Miſs M'Rea's death.
Americans engage the Britiſh under Gen. Burgoyne.
Diſtreſs and Calamity of the Royal army.
Gen. Burgoyne baffled in all his deſigns.
Signs the Convention.
Æſopus burnt by the troops under General Vaughan.

CHAP. VII.

TOWARDS the end of October, 1777, the royal army, under the command of Sir William Howe, removed to Philadelphia. Meaſures being concerted between the general and admiral for clearing the Delaware of its obſtructions, the former ordered batteries to be erected on the weſtern or Pennſylvanian ſhore, to aſſiſt in diſlodging the Americans from Mud Iſland. He alſo detached a ſtrong body of Heſſians croſs the river, who were to reduce the fort at Red-bank, while the ſhips and batteries on the other ſide were to attack Mud Iſland. Count Donop, in the ſervice of the Engliſh, was intruſted with the expedition againſt Red-bank; but he failed in the attempt. He was mortally wounded and taken priſoner, ſeveral of his beſt officers were killed or diſabled, and the Heſſians, after a deſperate engagement, were

repulſed. The ſecond in command being alſo dangerouſly wounded, the detachment was brought off by Lieut. Col. Linſing. It is ſaid that the royal detachment loſt, on this occaſion, between four and five hundred men.

The expedition againſt Mud Iſland met with better ſucceſs, the Americans being driven from thence, and forced to retire to Red-bank.

On the night of the 18th of November, Lord Cornwallis marched with a conſiderable force, and the next day croſſed the Delaware, in his way to Red-bank, which the Americans abandoned, leaving behind them the artillery, and a conſiderable quantity of cannon ball. The Engliſh generals confeſſed, that the long and unexpected oppoſition they received from Red-bank and Mud Iſland, broke in upon their plans for the remainder of the campaign.

On the third of May, 1778, Mr. Simion Deane arrived in America expreſs from France, with very important diſpatches. The congreſs was immediately convened, and the diſpatches opened and read, among which, to their inexpreſſible joy, were a treaty of commerce, and a treaty of alliance, concluded between his moſt Chriſtian majeſty the king of France and the United States of America. The treaties were duly weighed and conſidered ſeparately the next day,

day, and upon each it was unanimouſly reſolved, "That the ſame be, and is hereby accepted." The next reſolution was, "That this congreſs entertain the higheſt ſenſe of the magnanimity and wiſdom of his moſt Chriſtian majeſty, ſo ſtrongly exemplified in the treaty of amity and commerce; and the commiſſioners repreſenting their ſtates, at the court of France, are directed to preſent the grateful acknowledgments of this congreſs to his moſt Chriſtian majeſty, for his truly magnanimous conduct reſpecting theſe ſtates, in the ſaid generous and diſintereſted treaties, and to aſſure his majeſty, on the part of this congreſs, it is ſincerely wiſhed, that the friendſhip ſo happily commenced between France and theſe United States may be perpetual."

The congreſs, after receiving the treaties, had a ſtronger feeling of their own importance than before, and reſolved, "That the commiſſioners appointed for the courts of Spain, Tuſcany, Vienna, and Berlin, ſhould live in ſuch ſtile and manner at their reſpective courts, as they may find ſuitable and neceſſary to ſupport the dignity of their public character."

On the firſt of May, they agreed to a draught of "An addreſs to the inhabitants of the United States of America." In this publication, when they come to the French treaty, they ſay, "You have ſtill to expect

one ſevere conflict. Your foreign alliances, though they ſecure your independence, cannot ſecure your country from deſolation, your habitations from plunder, your wives from inſult or violation, nor your children from butchery. Foiled in the principal deſign, you muſt expect to feel the rage of diſappointed ambition. Ariſe then! to your tents, and gird you for battle! It is time to turn the headlong current of vengeance upon the head of the deſtroyer. They have filled up the meaſure of their abominations, and like fruit muſt ſoon drop from the tree. Although much is done, yet much remains to do. Expect not peace, while any corner of America is in the poſſeſſion of your foes. You muſt drive them away from this land of Promiſe, a land flowing indeed with milk and honey. Your brethren at the extremities of the continent already implore your friendſhip and protection. It is your duty to grant their requeſt. They hunger and thirſt after liberty. Be it yours to diſpenſe to them the heavenly gift. And what is there now to prevent it?"

In the month of May, the American Randolph frigate, of 36 guns, and 305 men, ſailed on a cruiſe from Charleſtown. The Yarmouth, of 64 guns, diſcovered her and five other veſſels, and came up with her in the evening. Capt. Vincent hailed the Randolph to hoiſt colours, or he would fire into her;

her; on which ſhe hoiſted American, and immediately gave the Yarmouth her broadſide, which was returned, and in about a quarter of an hour ſhe blew up. Four men ſaved themſelves upon a piece of her wreck, and ſubſiſted for five days upon nothing more than rain water, which they ſucked from a piece of blanket they had picked up. On the fifth, the Yarmouth being in chace of a ſhip, happily diſcovered them waving. The captain humanely ſuſpended the chace, hauled up to the wreck, got a boat out, and brought them on board.

On the 7th of May, the ſecond battalion of Britiſh light infantry, in flat boats, attended by three gallies and other armed boats, proceeded up the Delaware, in order to deſtroy all the American ſhips and veſſels lying in the river between Philadelphia and Trenton. They landed the next morning, advanced towards Bordentown, drove the Americans that oppoſed them, entered the town, and burnt four ſtore-houſes, containing proviſions, tobacco, ſome military ſtores, and camp equipage. The country being alarmed, and a ſtrong body collected, the battallion croſſed to the Pennſylvanian ſhore. The next day they reſumed their operations, and at ſun-ſet embarked and returned to Philadelphia. While upon the expedition, they burnt two frigates, one of 32, the other of 28 guns; nine large ſhips, three privateer ſloops

ſloops of 16 guns each, three of ten guns, twenty-three brigs, with a number of ſloops and ſchooners. Two of the ſhips were loaded with tobacco, rum, and military ſtores.

Gen. Howe was ſucceeded in the command of the army by Sir Henry Clinton, who arrived at Philadelphia on the 8th of May.

On the 6th of February, the treaties between France and the United States were ſigned. The alliance between theſe two powers was known to the Britiſh miniſtry ſoon after they were ſigned. Mr. Fox, in a debate in the Houſe of Commons five days afterwards, aſſerted, that the number of men loſt to the army, in killed, diſabled, deſerted, and from various other cauſes, from the commencement of hoſtilities with America to that period, amounted to above twenty thouſand.

On the 17th Lord North introduced his conſiliatory propoſitions. His plan was to enable the crown to appoint commiſſioners to treat with the colonies concerning the means of putting an end to thoſe unhappy conteſts; for which five perſons were inveſted with ample powers. His lordſhip ſaid in his ſpeech, that Gen. Howe had been, in the late actions, and in the whole courſe of the campaign, not only in the goodneſs of troops, and in all manner of ſupplies, but alſo in

point

Destruction of the Randolph Frigate.

BRITISH
MUSEUM

point of numbers, much ſuperior to the American army that oppoſed him in the field; that Gen. Burgoyne had been in numbers, until the affair at Bennington, nearly twice as ſtrong as the army of the enemy; that he promiſed a great army ſhould be ſent out, and that a great army had accordingly been ſent out, to the amount of 60,000 men and upwards.

The ſpeech was long, able, and eloquent, and kept him up two full hours. A dull melancholy ſilence for ſome time ſucceeded. It was heard with profound attention, but without a ſingle mark of approbation. Aſtoniſhment, dejection, and fear, over clouded the whole aſſembly. It was conjectured, that ſome powerful motive had induced miniſtry to adopt ſuch an alteration of meaſures. This idea was confirmed by the poſitive aſſertion of Mr. Fox, that a treaty had been ſigned at Paris between the colonies and France, by which ſhe recognized her independence.

On the 13th of March, the French ambaſſador delivered a reſcript to Lord Weymouth, in which he informed the court of London, that the king had ſigned a treaty of friendſhip and commerce with the United States of America. The knowledge of this tranſaction was communicated under the parade of cultivating the good underſtanding between France and Great Britain.

On

On the 21th of March, a public audience and reception were given to the American commiſſioners, Meſſ. Franklin, Deane, and Lee, by the French monarch. They were introduced by Monſ. Vergennes, and received by the king with the uſual formalities and ceremonies. The ſtriking acknowledgment of the plenipotentiaries from the United States mortified the miniſtry and crown of Great Britain, and may be pronounced the political phenomenon of Europe. The day before it was exhibited, the French embaſſador, in conſequence of orders to quit London, ſet out for Paris.

From this time, the courts of London and Verſailles were buſied in fitting out their fleets, which met each other in the month of July. The Engliſh fleet was commanded by the Admirals Keppel, Palliſer, and Harland. But, as the action of that day is amply related in our Hiſtory of England, we ſhall not introduce in theſe annals of America, an account of ſo foul a tarniſh to the Britiſh flag.

In the beginning of June, the Trident Britiſh man of war arrived in the Delaware, with the Earl of Carliſle, Mr. Eden, and Gov. Johnſtone, three of the commiſſioners for reſtoring peace between Great Britain and America.

On the 18th of June, at three o'clock in the morning, the Britiſh evacuated Philadelphia,

phia, Mr. Eden having brought with him ſecret inſtructions from England for that purpoſe. They proceeded to Glouceſter Point, three miles down the river, and before ten the whole had paſſed in ſafety croſs the Delaware into New Jerſey.

When intelligence of Sir Henry Clinton's having evacuated Philadelphia reached the American head-quarters, Gen. Waſhington took his meaſures accordingly. Several ſkirmiſhes happened between the Americans and the regulars with various ſucceſs, till on the 30th of June the royal army arrived in the neighbourhood of Sandy Hook. During the courſe of the march from Philadelphia, the royal army was much reduced, upwards of 800 having deſerted, a great number of whom were Heſſians.

On the 5th of July, the army paſſed over a bridge of boats croſs a narrow channel to Sandy Hook, and were afterwards carried up to New York. On the 7th, Lord Howe received advice, that the ſquadron from Toulon was arrived at Virginia. Count d'Eſtaing anchored on the 8th at night at the entrance of the Delaware. The next morning, he weighed and ſailed towards the Hook, and on the evening of the 11th anchored without it. Had not bad weather and unexpected impediments prevented, the count muſt have ſurprized Howe's fleet in the Delaware, as the latter would not have had time to eſcape after

after being appriſed of his danger. The deſtruction of the fleet muſt have been the conſequence of ſuch a ſurpriſal, and that muſt have occaſioned the inevitable loſs of the royal army, which would have been ſo encloſed by the French ſquadron on the one ſide, and the American forces on the other, that the Saratoga cataſtrophe muſt have been repeated. Lord Howe's fleet conſiſted only of ſix ſixty-four gun ſhips, three of fifty, and two of forty, with ſome frigates and ſloops. Count d'Eſtaing had twelve ſhips of the line, ſome of which were of great force and weight.

On the 22d of July, the count ſailed from Sandy Hook, when about twenty ſail of veſſels bound to New York fell into his poſſeſſion. They were chiefly prizes taken from the Americans; but, had he ſtayed a few days longer, Admiral Byron's fleet muſt have fallen a defenceleſs prey into their hands. That ſquadron had met with unuſual bad weather, and being ſeparated in different ſtorms, and lingering through a tedious paſſage, arrived ſcattered, broken, ſickly, diſmaſted, or otherwiſe damaged in various degrees of diſtreſs, upon different and remote parts of the American coaſt. Between the departure of d'Eſtaing and the 30th of July, the Renown of 50 guns from the Weſt Indies, the Raiſonable and Centurion of 64, and the Cornwall of 74 guns, all arrived ſingly

ſingly at ſandy Hook. By d'Eſtaing's ſpeedy departure a number of proviſion ſhips from Cork eſcaped alſo, together with their convoy. They went up the Delaware within fifty miles of Philadelphia after Lord Howe had quitted the river, not having obtained any information of what had happened. The Britiſh miniſtry had neglected countermanding their deſtination, though orders for the evacuation of Philadelphia had been ſent off ſo early, as to have admitted of their receiving freſh inſtructions where to have ſteered before ſailing. Great rejoicings were made at New York upon their ſafe arrival, eſpecially as proviſions were much wanted both by the fleet and army.

Let us now quit the military operations for the preſent, and take a view of the pending negociations. Gov. Johnſtone, meaning to avail himſelf of former connections, endeavoured to commence or renew a private correſpondence with ſeveral members of congreſs, and other perſons of conſideration. In his letters to them he uſed a freedom with the authority under which he acted, not cuſtomary with thoſe entruſted with delegated power, and afforded ſuch a degree of approbation to the Americans in the paſt reſiſtance they had made, as is ſeldom granted by negociators to their opponents. In a letter to Joſeph Reed, Eſq. of April the 11th, he ſaid, "The man, who can be inſtrumental in

bringing us all to act once more in harmony, and to unite together the various powers which this conteſt has brought forth, will deſerve more from the king and people, from patriotiſm, humanity, and all the tender ties that are affected by the quarrel and reconciliation, than ever was yet beſtowed on human kind."

On the 16th of June, he wrote to Robert Morris, Eſq. "I believe the men, who have conducted the affairs of America, incapable of being influenced by improper motives; but in all ſuch tranſactions there is riſk, and I think that whoever ventures ſhould be ſecured; at the ſame time that honour and emolument ſhould naturally follow the fortune of thoſe, who have ſteered the veſſel in the ſtorm, and brought her ſafely to port. I think Waſhington and the preſident have a right to every favour that a grateful nation can beſtow, if they could once more unite our intereſt, and ſpare the miſeries and devaſtations of war."

On Sunday the 21ſt of June, Mr. Reed received a written meſſage from Mrs. Ferguſon, expreſſing a deſire to ſee him on buſineſs, which could not be committed to writing. On his attending in the evening, agreeable to her appointment, after ſome previous converſation, ſhe enlarged upon the great talents and amiable qualities of Gov. Johnſtone, and added, that in ſeveral converſations

ſations with her, he had expreſſed the moſt favourable ſentiments of Mr. Reed; that it was particularly wiſhed to engage his intereſt to promote the object of the Britiſh commiſſioners, viz. a re-union of the two countries, if conſiſtent with his principles and judgment; and that in ſuch caſe it could not be deemed unbecoming or improper in the Britiſh government to take a favourable notice of ſuch conduct; and that, in this inſtance, Mr. Reed might have ten thouſand pounds ſterling, and any office in the colonies in his majeſty's gift.

Mr. Reed, finding an anſwer was expected, replied, "I am not worth purchaſing; but, ſuch as I am, the king of Great Britain is not rich enough to do it." However right the principles might be, on which this inſinuating ſcheme of conciliation was adopted, its effects were inimical.

On the 9th of July, congreſs ordered, "That all letters received by members of congreſs from any of the Britiſh commiſſioners, or their agents, or from any ſubject of the king of Great Britain, of a public nature, be laid before congreſs." The preceding letters being communicated, and Mr. Reed making a declaration of what had paſſed within his knowledge, congreſs reſolved, "That the ſame cannot be conſidered but as direct attempts to corrupt and bribe the congreſs; that as congreſs feel, ſo they ought to

demonſtrate, the higheſt and moſt pointed indignation againſt ſuch daring and atrocious attempts to corrupt their integrity; and that it is incompatible with the honour of congreſs to hold any manner of correſpondence or intercourſe with the ſaid George Johnſtone, Eſq. eſpecially to negociate with him upon affairs, in which the cauſe of liberty is concerned."

The proceedings in this buſineſs were expreſſed in the form of a declaration, a copy of which was ordered to be ſigned by the preſident, and ſent by a flag to the commiſſioners at New York.

Theſe proceedings produced a very angry and violent declaration from Gov. Johnſtone, in which the immediate operations of paſſion and diſappointment were too conſpicuous. The language of his publication but poorly agreed with the high and flattering compliments he had ſo lately laviſhed on the Americans, in thoſe very letters, which were the ſubject of the preſent conteſt. It was dated the 26th of Auguſt, and tranſmitted to congreſs; together with a declaration of the ſame date from Lord Carliſle, Sir Henry Clinton, and Mr. Eden, which went to a ſolemn and total diſavowal, ſo far as related to the preſent ſubject, of their having had any knowledge, directly or indirectly, of thoſe matters ſpecified by congreſs.

Thus

Thus were all hopes of further negociation with congreſs at an end. Had Lord North, and the reſt of the miniſtry then in being, adopted theſe corrupting meaſures in the more early part of the American diſputes, it is poſſible they might have ſucceeded; but to attempt it at a time, when the ſpirits of the Americans were raiſed to the higheſt pitch by their new alliance with France, was ſurely little ſhort of folly and madneſs.

On the 6th of Auguſt, the Hon. Sieur Gerard was introduced to the congreſs, in quality of miniſter plenipotentiary, who produced a letter from his maſter the king of France to *his very dear great friends and allies*; and the compliments Monſ. Gerard received on this occaſion were very different from thoſe ſentiments the Americans lately entertained of their *now* faithful allies!

On the 14th of September, congreſs proceeded to the election of a miniſter plenipotentiary to the court of France, when Dr. Benjamin Franklin was elected by ballot. His inſtructions were dated the 26th of October, and by them he was directed to obtain, if poſſible, the French king's conſent to expunge two of the articles in the treaty of commerce. The doctor was to inculcate the certainty of ruining the Britiſh fiſhery on the banks of Newfoundland, and conſequently the Britiſh marine, by reducing Halifax and Quebec.

Memorable Events recorded in this Chapter.

Anno 1777.

Count Donop repulſed in the attack upon Red Bank.
Mud Iſland reduced.
Congreſs receive the treaties concluded between France and the United States.

Anno 1778.

The Randolph American frigate blown up.
Sir Henry Clinton ſucceeds Gen. Howe in America.
The treaties between France and the United States ſigned.
Lord North's conſiliatory propoſitions.
Meſſ. Franklin, Deane, and Lee, have a public audience at the French court.
The Britiſh army evacuates Philadelphia.
Skirmiſhes between the Engliſh and Americans.
The Britiſh forces arrive at Sandy Hook.
Gov. Johnſtone attempts to corrupt certain Members of the congreſs.
Dr. Franklin ſent as Miniſter to the court of France.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

THE campaign in the northern ſtates having produced nothing advantageous to the Britiſh, and the winter being the proper ſeaſon for ſouthern expeditions, Sir Henry Clinton concluded upon turning his arms againſt Georgia. He might propoſe to himſelf the reduction of all the ſouthern ſtates, and he ſtrongly inclined to it, by reaſon that theſe ſtates produced the moſt valuable articles of commerce for the European market, and carried on a conſiderable export trade, which appeared no otherwiſe affected by the war, than as it ſuffered from the Britiſh cruiſers. The rice was devoted to the ſervice of its enemies, while it was wanted for the ſupport of the royal fleet and army in America. A plan of operations was concerted with Gen. Prevoſt, who commanded in Eaſt Florida; and it was intended, that Georgia ſhould be invaded both on the north and ſouth ſides at the ſame time.

This expedition was committed to Col. Campbell, and the forces appointed to act under him amounted to full 2500, which ſailed from Sandy Hook, on the 27th of November, being eſcorted by a ſmall ſquadron under Commodore Hyde Parker. The fleet arrived at the Iſle of Tibee, near the mouth of the Savannah,

Savannah, and on the 29th of December, the troops effected a landing. They were no ſooner landed, than they were led to attack the fort, which the Britiſh perſiſted in with ſo much ſpirit and rapidity, that the Americans retreated with precipitation and diſorder. No victory was ever more complete: thirty-eight officers, and 415 non-commiſſioned and privates, 48 pieces of cannon, 23 mortars, the fort with its ammunition and ſtores, the ſhipping in the river, a large quantity of proviſions, with the capital of Georgia, were all, within the ſpace of a few hours, in the poſſeſſion of the Britiſh troops.

The 30th of December was appointed as a thankſgiving-day, by order of congreſs. The affairs of the United States were at this period in a moſt diſtreſſed, deplorable, and ruinous condition. Idleneſs, diſſipation, and extravagance, ſeemed to have engroſſed the attention of the generality of the American ſons of liberty; and ſelf-intereſt, ſpeculation, and an inſatiable thirſt for riches, appeared to have got the better of every other conſideration, and almoſt of every order of men. Party diſputes and perſonal quarrels were too much the general object, while the momentous concerns of the empire, a vaſt accumulated debt, ruined finances, depreciated money, and want of credit, which naturally brings on the want of every thing, were but ſecondary conſiderations, and poſtponed by

congreſs

congreſs from time to time, as if their affairs were in the moſt flouriſhing ſituation. The paper currency in Philadelphia was daily ſinking, and at length even ſo low as fifty per cent, yet an aſſembly, a concert, a dinner or ſupper, which coſt two or three hundred pounds, did not only take men off from acting, but even from thinking of what ought to have been neareſt their hearts. Some of the moſt diſintereſted and patriotic Americans felt more diſtreſs from this review of things, than they had done at any other time, from the diſappointments and loſſes in the courſe of the war.

In the mean time, Monſ. Gerard, the French ambaſſador, manifeſted a deſire, that the war might not be prolonged by too high and unreaſonable demands, and that the United States would reduce their ultimatum as low as poſſible. He ſtrongly recommended moderation, as the fate of war was uncertain; and he hinted, that a deciſive naval engagement, in favour of the Britiſh, might give a great turn to their affairs.

The South-Carolina delegates, rather with a view to conqueſt, than from any ſpecial apprehenſion of danger to their own or neighbouring ſtates from the troops under Gen. Clinton, requeſted the congreſs to appoint Gen. Lincoln, on whoſe character they juſtly repoſed great confidence, to the command of all the forces to the ſouthward. Accordingly

cordingly they made the appointment on the 25th of September, and ordered him immediately to repair to Charleſtown.

On the 2d of March, the American officer of the day reported, that reconnoitring parties of the enemy's horſe and foot had been ſeen within their piquet the night preceding. Gen. Aſhe, who had croſſed the Savannah with about 1200 troops, beſides 200 light horſe, returned on the evening of the ſame day to his camp. In ſhort, the conduct of Gen. Aſhe was ſo puſilanimous, that he made no preparations to impede the march of the Britiſh, and, ſoon after their appearance, he and his troops fled with precipitation, without firing a gun.

In the month of May, Sir Henry Clinton diſpatched Sir George Collier and Gen. Matthews, with about 2000 men, beſides 500 marines, to make a deſcent upon Virginia. They ſailed for Portſmouth in that province, and upon their arrival landed their troops at a diſtance, then marched, and took immediate poſſeſſion of the town, which was defenceleſs. The remains of Norfolk, on the oppoſite ſide of the river, fell of courſe into their hands. On the approach of the fleet and army, the Americans burnt ſeveral veſſels, others were ſaved and poſſeſſed by the Britiſh. The guards were puſhed forwards eighteen miles by night to Suffolk, where they arrived by day-light, and proceeded to deſtroy

deſtroy a magazine of proviſions, together with the veſſels and naval ſtores found there. A ſimilar deſtruction was carried on at other places in that quarter, nor were the frigates and armed veſſels leſs active or ſucceſsful in their ſervice.

Within the fortnight that the fleet and army continued upon the coaſt, the loſs of the Americans was prodigious. Above 130 veſſels of all ſorts, including ſome privateers and ſhips of force, were deſtroyed or taken by them; ſeventeen prizes were brought away, beſides 3000 hogſheads of tobacco, which fell into their poſſeſſion at Portſmouth. Except the houſe of a widow and the church, they burnt every houſe in Suffolk, and all the principal houſes of gentlemen in this route ſhared the ſame fate.

On the 30th of May, the troops were joined to others going up the North river to attack the poſts of Stoney Point and Verplank, where the Americans had begun to conſtruct ſtrong works, for keeping the lower communication open between the eaſtern and ſouthern ſtates. Gen. Vaughan landed with the greater part on the eaſt-ſide, while the remainder, accompanied by Sir Henry Clinton, advanced further up, landed on the weſt-ſide, and took poſſeſſion of Stoney Point without oppoſition. Directly oppoſite, the Americans had completely finiſhed a ſtrong fort, which was defended by four

four pieces of artillery, and a garriſon of about ſeventy men. But it was commanded by Stoney Point; to the ſummit of whoſe rocks cannon and mortars were dragged up during the night. By five in the morning, a battery was opened, which poured a ſtorm of fire on the fort, while Vaughan with his diviſion, making a long circuit by the ſides of the hills, arrived, and cloſely inveſted it by land. The garriſon, finding themſelves totally overpowered, ſurrendered themſelves priſoners of war. By the loſs of theſe poſts, the Jerſey people were obliged to make a circuit of about ninety miles under the mountains, to communicate with the ſtates eaſt of Hudſon's river.

After the French had taken Grenada, and Count d'Eſtaing was lying with his fleet at Cape François, he received letters from Gov. Rutlege, Gen. Lincoln, the French conſul at Charleſtown, and others, urging him to viſit the American coaſt, and propoſing an attack upon Savannah. The general engaged to join him with a thouſand men certain, and promiſed that every exertion ſhould be made to encreaſe the number. The application coinciding with the king's inſtructions, to act in concert with the forces of the United States, whenever an occaſion preſented itſelf, he ſailed for the American continent within a few days after it was received.

On

On the 1ſt of September, Count d'Eſtaing arrived with a fleet of twenty ſail of the line, two of fifty guns, and eleven frigates. The appearance of the French fleet on the coaſts of South-Carolina and Georgia was ſo unexpected by the Britiſh, that the Experiment man of war, of fifty guns, Sir James Wallace, commander, and three frigates, were captured. No ſooner was it known at Charleſtown, that the Count was on the coaſt, than Lincoln marched with all expedition for Savannah, with the troops under his command; and orders were alſo given for the South-Carolina and Georgia militia to rendezvous immediately near the ſame place. The Britiſh were equally diligent in preparing for their defence.

The French and Americans, after having ſpent ſome time in making regular approaches, at laſt determined to take the place by ſtorm. Accordingly, the morning of the 9th of October was fixed for the attack, and neither the French nor the Americans had the leaſt doubts of ſucceſs.

Two feints were made with the country militia, and a real attack, a little before daylight, on the Spring-hill battery, with 3,500 French troops, 600 continentals, and 350 of the Charleſtown militia, headed by Count d'Eſtaing and Gen. Lincoln. They marched up to the lines with great boldneſs; but a heavy and well-directed fire from the batteries,

and a croſs fire from the gallies, threw the front of the column into confuſion. Two ſtandards, however, one an American, were planted on the Britiſh redoubts.—Count Pulaſki, at the head of 200 horſemen, was in full gallop, riding into town between the redoubts, with an intention of charging in the rear, when he received a mortal wound. A general retreat of the aſſailants took place, after they had ſtood the enemy's fire for fifty-five minutes. D'Eſtaing received two ſlight wounds; 637 of his troops, and 234 of the continentals, were killed or wounded. Of the 350 Charleſtown militia, who were in the hotteſt of the fire, only ſix were wounded, and a captain killed. Gen. Prevoſt and Major Moncrieff deſervedly acquired great reputation by their ſucceſsful defence. There were not ten guns mounted on the lines when the enemy firſt appeared, and in a few days the number exceeded eighty. The garriſon was between two and three thouſand, including 150 militia. The damage it ſuſtained was trifling, as the men fired under cover, and few of the aſſailants fired at all.

Let us now ſee what the northern army was doing. In the middle of December, a part of Gen. Waſhington's army was without bread; and for the reſt he had not, either on the ſpot or within reach, a ſupply ſufficient for four days. Both officers and men were almoſt periſhing through want for a fortnight.

The

The deficiency proceeded from the abſolute emptineſs of the American magazines in every place, and the total want of money and credit to repleniſh them. So that the general was obliged to call upon the magiſtrates of the Jerſey ſtate, to expreſs his ſituation to them, and to declare in plain terms, that he and his army were reduced to the alternative of diſbanding or catering for themſelves, unleſs the inhabitants would afford them aid. He allotted to each county a certain proportion of flour or grain, and a certain number of cattle to be delivered on certain days. To the honour of the magiſtrates, and the good diſpoſitions of the people, be it added, that theſe requiſitions were punctually complied with, and in many counties exceeded.

But to return to the ſouthern armies. On the 20th of March, 1780, Admiral Arbuthnot, with a ſmall fleet, croſſed the bar, in front of Rebellion road, and anchored in Five Fathom Hole. The American fleet retreated to Charleſtown, and the crews and guns of all the veſſels, except the Ranger, were put on ſhore to reinforce the batteries. Before the Americans had taken this ſtep, they ſhould have conſidered, whether the ſhips were able to defend the bar, and ſhould have ſent them off, when they found it impracticable.

On the 12th of April, the Britiſh opened their batteries againſt Charleſtown, and a conſtant fire was kept up between both parties until the 20th. On the 18th of April, Sir Henry Clinton received a reinforcement of 3000 men from New York; and on the 12th of May, Gen. Lincoln, after having made the moſt vigorous defence he was capable of, was obliged to capitulate. It was ſtipulated, that the continental troops and ſailors ſhould remain priſoners of war until exchanged, and be provided with good and wholeſome proviſions, in ſuch quantities as were ſerved out to the Britiſh troops. The militia were to return home as priſoners on parole, which, as long as they obſerved, was to ſecure them from being moleſted in their property by the Britiſh troops. The officers of the army and navy were to keep their ſwords, piſtols, and baggage, which laſt was not to be ſearched; but their horſes were not to go out of town, but might be diſpoſed of by a perſon left for the purpoſe. The garriſon, at an hour appointed, was to march out of the town to the ground between the works of the place and the canal, where they were to depoſit their arms. The drums were not to beat a Britiſh march, nor the colours to be uncaſed. All civil officers and citizens, who had born arms during the ſiege, were to be priſoners on parole; and with reſpect to their property in the city, they were to have the

the ſame terms as the militia; and all other perſons in the town, not deſcribed in any article, were notwithſtanding to be priſoners upon parole.

The capital having ſurrendered, the next object of the Britiſh was to ſecure the general ſubmiſſion of the inhabitants. With this view they poſted garriſons in different parts of the country, and marched a large body of troops over the Santee, towards the extremity of the ſtate, which borders on the moſt populous parts of North Carolina. This occaſioned the retreat of ſome American parties, who had advanced into the upper part of South Carolina, in expectation of relieving Charleſtown. Among the corps which had come forward with that view, there was one conſiſting of about 300 continentals, the rear of the Virginia line, commanded by Col. Buford. Tarleton, with about 700 horſe and foot, was ſent in queſt of this party. Having mounted his infantry, he marched 105 miles in fifteen hours, came up with them at the Waxhaws, and demanded their ſurrender on terms ſimilar to thoſe granted to the continentals at Charleſtown. While the flags were paſſing and repaſſing on this buſineſs, Tarleton kept his men in motion, and, when the truce was ended, had nearly ſurrounded his adverſaries. An action inſtantly enſued, when the continental party, having partaken of the general conſternation

occaſioned by the Britiſh ſucceſſes, made but a feeble reſiſtance, and begged for quarter. A few, however, continued to fire. The Britiſh cavalry advanced, but were not oppoſed by the main body of the continentals, who conceived themſelves precluded by their ſubmiſſion. The accidental firing of the few was an argument, however, for directing the Britiſh legion to charge thoſe who had laid down their arms. In conſequence of this order, the unreſiſting Americans, praying for quarters, were cut in pieces. By Tarleton's official account of this bloody ſcene, 113 were killed, 50 badly wounded, unable to travel, and left on parole, and 53 made priſoners, while they made ſuch ineffectual oppoſition as only to kill ſeven and wound twelve of the Britiſh. Lord Cornwallis beſtowed on Tarleton the higheſt encomiums for this enterprize, and recommended him in a ſpecial manner to royal favour and patronage.

The expected ſuccours at length arrived from France, on the evening of the 10th of July, at Rhode Iſland. The Chevalier de Ternay commanded the fleet, which conſiſted of two ſhips of 80 guns, one of 74, four of 64, a bomb veſſel, and 32 tranſports. The land forces conſiſted of four old regiments, beſides the legion de Lauzun, and a battalion of artillery, amounting to about 6000

6000 men, under the command of Lieut. Gen. Count de Rochambeau.

About the time that Charleſtown ſurrendered, Sir H. Clinton received intelligence, that a large number of forces and a French fleet, commanded by Monſ. Ternay, might ſoon be expected on the American coaſt. This induced him to reimbark for New York, leaving Lord Cornwallis with about 4000 men, which were deemed fully ſufficient for his purpoſes.

On the 4th of September, was ſigned the plan of a treaty of commerce between the ſtates of Holland and the United States of America. Monſ. de Neufville, being properly authorized by the regency of Amſterdam, engaged, that as long as America ſhould not act contrary to the intereſt of the ſtates of Holland, the city of Amſterdam would never adopt any meaſure that might tend to oppoſe the intereſt of America; but would, on the contrary, uſe all its influence upon the ſtates of the Seven United Provinces of Holland, to effect the deſired connection. This buſineſs was conducted by Mr. Adams, on the part of America.

Lord Cornwallis went on ſucceſsfully in South Carolina. On the 16th of Auguſt he engaged the forces under Gen. Gates, and completely routed them after a long and obſtinate conteſt. Gen. Gates was borne off the field by a torrent of diſmayed militia.

They

They conſtituted ſo great a part of his army, that when he ſaw them break and run with ſuch precipitation, he loſt every hope of victory; and his only care was, if poſſible, to rally a ſufficient number to cover the retreat of the other troops. He retired with Gen. Caſwell to Clermont, in hope of halting them in their late encampment; but the further they fled, the more they diſperſed, and the generals giving up all as loſt, retired with a few attendants to Charlotte.

The Americans loſt eight field pieces, the whole of their artillery, with all their ammunition waggons, beſides 150 others, and a conſiderable quantity of military ſtores, and the greateſt part of their baggage. The numbers ſlain cannot be preciſely aſcertained, no returns of the militia ever being made after the action; but it is ſuppoſed, that the Americans loſt about 700 on this occaſion. Though Cornwallis's victory was complete, yet, from the account the Britiſh gave of the action, it may be inferred, that it was dearly bought, upwards of 500 of their own troops being killed or wounded.

A minute repreſentation of the retreat of the Americans from Charlotte to Saliſbury, would be the image of complicated wretchedneſs. Care, anxiety, pain, humiliation and dejection, poverty, hurry and confuſion, promiſcuouſly marked the ſhocking ſcene. Painful objects preſented themſelves to view; ſeveral

ſeveral men without an arm, ſome with but one, and many ſtanding in need of the moſt kind and powerful aſſiſtance.

Lord Cornwallis, notwithſtanding his victory, was reſtrained for ſome time from purſuing his conqueſts, by the loſs he had ſuſtained in the battle, the extreme heat of the weather, the ſicklineſs of the ſeaſon, and the want of neceſſary ſupplies: he therefore remained at Cambden.

In the month of September, a diſcovery of the utmoſt importance was made, which was a ſcheme for delivering Weſt Point into the hands of Sir Henry Clinton. Gen. Arnold, who had the command of that poſt, was brave but mercenary, fond of parade, and extremely deſirous of acquiring money to defray the expences of it. When he entered Philadelphia after the evacuation, he made Gov. Penn's, the beſt houſe in it, his head quarters. This he furniſhed in a very coſtly manner, and lived in a ſtile far beyond his income. He continued his extravagant courſe of living, was unſucceſsful in trade and privateering, his funds were exhauſted, and his creditors importunate, while his luſt for high life was not in the leaſt abated. He had exhibited heavy accounts and demands againſt the public; and the commiſſioners, upon examination, rejected about one half of the amount. He appealed to congreſs, and a committee was appointed, who were

of

of opinion, that the commiſſioners had allowed more than the general had a right to expect or demand. This provoked him to outrageous expreſſions and proceedings. Diſguſted at the treatment he had met with, embarraſſed in his circumſtances, and having a growing expenſive family, he turned his thoughts towards bettering his circumſtances by new means. In 1779, a correſpondence commenced between Gen. Arnold and Major Andre, adjutant-general to the Britiſh army, a riſing young officer of great hope and merit.

For the ſpeedy completion of the negociation that was carrying on between Sir Henry and Gen. Arnold, the Vulture ſloop of war was ſtationed in the North River, at ſuch a diſtance from the American poſts, as, without exciting ſuſpicion, would ſerve for the neceſſary communication. Before this, a written correſpondence, through other channels, had been maintained between Arnold and Andre at New York, under the names of Guſtavus and Anderſon.

On the 21ſt of September, the neceſſary arrangements being made, a boat was ſent at night from the ſhore to the Vulture to fetch Major Andre, which brought him to the beach without the poſts of either army, where he met Arnold. The major continued with him during the following day, and at night, the boatmen refuſing to conduct him back

back to the Vulture, which had ſhifted her poſition, as ſhe lay expoſed to the fire of a cannon ſent to annoy her, he was obliged to concert his eſcape by land. He quitted his uniform, which he had hitherto worn under his ſurtout, for a common coat. He was furniſhed with a horſe, and under the name of John Anderſon, with a paſſport from Arnold, to go through the lines at White Plains, or lower if he thought proper, he being on public buſineſs.

He purſued his journey alone to New York, paſſed all the guards and poſts on the road without ſuſpicion, and was much elated. The next day he travelled without any alarm, and began to conſider himſelf out of danger; but, unhappily for him, three of the New York militia were with others out on a ſcouting party between the out-poſts of the two armies. One of them ſprung from his covert, and ſeized Andre's horſe by the bridle. The major, inſtead of inſtantly producing his paſs, aſked the man where he belonged to, who anſwered, "*To below.*" Andre, ſuſpecting no deceit, ſaid, "*So do I.*" Then declared himſelf a Britiſh officer, and preſſed that he might not be detained, for that he was upon urgent buſineſs. Upon the other two coming up, and joining their comrade, he diſcovered his miſtake. The confuſion that followed was apparent, and they proceeded to ſearch him till they found his papers.

pers. He offered the captors a conſiderable purſe of gold, and a very valuable watch, to let him paſs; but they nobly diſdained the temptation, beſides the faſcinating offers of permanent proviſion, and even of future promotion, on condition of their conveying and accompanying him to New York. They conducted him to Lieut. Col. Jameſon, the continental officer, who had the command of the ſcouting parties, amounting to 800 men, chiefly militia. Arnold's conduct with regard to this body of men, and in other reſpects, had excited ſuch ſuſpicions in the breaſt of the lieutenant-colonel, and the reſt of the officers, that they had determined upon ſeizing the general at all events, had he come down and ordered them nearer the enemy. Jameſon, notwithſtanding his ſtrong jealouſy of Arnold, was in the iſſue the means of his eſcape.

Major Andre, in order to give Arnold time to eſcape, requeſted that a line might be ſent to acquaint him with the detention of Anderſon, the name Andre had aſſumed, which Jameſon through an ill-judged delicacy granted. The papers, which were found in the major's boots, were in Arnold's hand-writing, and contained exact returns of the ſtate of the forces, ordnances and defences at Weſt Point and its dependencies, with the artillery orders, critical remarks on the works, an eſtimate of the number of men that

that were ordinarily on duty to man them, and the copy of a ſtate of matters that had been laid before a council of war by the commander in chief. Theſe papers were encloſed in a packet to Gen. Waſhington, accompanied with a letter from the priſoner, avowing himſelf to be Major Andre, adjutant-general to the Britiſh army, relating the manner of his capture, and endeavouring to ſhow, that he did not come under the deſcription of a ſpy. Theſe papers were forwarded by Jameſon.

No ſooner had Arnold received the Major's letter, than he haſtened on board the Vulture, which lay ſome miles below Stoney and Verplank's Points; and Arnold had not been long gone, when Waſhington arrived at his quarters. Had the plot ſucceeded, the conſequences muſt have been ruinous to the Americans. The forces under Arnold's command muſt have either laid down their arms, or have been cut to pieces. Their loſs, and the immediate poſſeſſion of Weſt Point, and all its neighbouring dependencies, muſt have expoſed the remainder of Waſhington's army ſo to the joint exertion of the Britiſh forces, by land and water, that nothing but ruin could have been the reſult with reſpect to the Americans.

On the 29th of September, Gen. Waſhington appointed a board of fourteen general officers, with the aſſiſtance of the judge-ad-

vocate general, to examine Major Andre's caſe, and to determine in what light it ought to be conſidered. Andre, diſdaining all ſubterfuge and evaſion, and ſtudying only to place his character in ſo fair a light, as might prevent its being ſhaded by preſent circumſtances, voluntarily confeſſed more than he was aſked, and ſought not to palliate any thing relating to himſelf, while he concealed, with the moſt guarded and ſcrupulous nicety, whatever might involve others. The board ſhewed him every poſſible mark of indulgence, and ſufficiently witneſſed how much they felt for his ſituation. However, public juſtice obliged them to declare, "that Major Andre ought to be conſidered as a ſpy from the enemy; and that agreeable to the law and uſage of nations, it is their opinion he ought to ſuffer death."

Several letters paſſed between the Generals Clinton and Waſhington relative to this unhappy affair; but nothing was capable of ſaving the unfortunate major. On the 2d of October, the tragedy was cloſed. The major was ſuperior to the terrors of death; but the diſgraceful mode of dying, which the uſage of war had annexed to his unhappy ſituation, was infinitely dreadful to him. He was deſirous of being indulged with a profeſſional death, and had accordingly written, the day before, a pathetic letter, fraught with all the feelings of a man of ſentiment

timent and honour, in which he requeſted of Gen. Waſhington, that he might not die on a gibbet. The general conſulted his officers on the ſubject. Pity and eſteem wrought ſo powerfully, that they were all for ſhooting him, till Greene inſiſted on it, that his crime was that of a common ſpy; that the public good required his being hanged; and that, were he ſhot, the generality would think there were favourable cicumſtances entitling him to notice and lenity. His obſervations convinced them, that there would be an impropriety in granting the major's requeſt, while tenderneſs prevented its being divulged.

When Major Andre was led out to the place of execution, as he went along he bowed himſelf familiarly to all thoſe with whom he had been acquainted in his confinement. A ſmile of complacency expreſſed the ſerene fortitude of his mind. Upon ſeeing the preparations at the fatal ſpot, he aſked with ſome emotion, "Muſt I die in this manner?" He was told it was unavoidable. He replied, "I am reconciled to my fate, but not to the mode." Soon after, recollecting himſelf, he added, "It will be but a momentary pang;" and ſpringing upon the cart, he performed the laſt offices to himſelf, with a compoſure that excited the admiration, and melted the hearts of all the ſpectators. Being told the final moment was at hand, and aſked if he had any thing to ſay,

he anſwered, "Nothing but to requeſt you will witneſs to the world, that I die like a brave man." He died univerſally eſteemed and regretted.

Memorable Events recorded in this Chapter.

Anno 1778.

The Britiſh operations againſt Georgia.
The affairs of the United ſtates in a deplorable condition.
Gen. Lincoln ſent to South Carolina.

Anno 1779.

Gen. Aſhe ſurpriſed and defeated.
Sir Henry Clinton takes Stoney Point.
Count d'Eſtaing ſails from the Weſt Indies for the American coaſts.
The French and Americans repulſed at Savannah.
Waſhington's army in diſtreſs for want of bread.
Charleſtown taken by the Britiſh forces.

Anno 1780.

Tarleton defeats Col. Buford.
A French fleet with troops arrive at Newport.
Treaty ſigned between Holland and America.
Earl Cornwallis defeats Gen. Gates.
Major Andre taken and executed as a ſpy.
Gen. Arnold makes his eſcape on board the Vulture Britiſh ſloop of war.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

SIR Henry Clinton, on the 15th of October, 1780, in obedience to the orders ſent him, to proſecute the war with vigour in North Carolina and Virginia, diſpatched Gen. Leſlie from New York to the bay of Cheſapeak, with near 3000 choice troops. He was to co-operate with Lord Cornwallis, who was expected to be far advanced towards, if not to have reached Virginia. In a few days, the fleet arrived in the bay, and the troops were landed in different parts of Virginia.

On the 20th of June, the French and Spaniſh fleets formed a junction in the Weſt Indies. They amounted to 36 ſail of the line, which, with their united land forces, formed ſuch an apparent ſuperiority, as nothing in thoſe ſeas or iſlands ſeemed capable of reſiſting; but the Spaniſh troops, being too much crowded on board their tranſports, together with the length of the voyage, the change of climate and diet, and other circumſtances, a moſt mortal and contagious diſorder was generated, which firſt infected their own ſeamen, and at length ſpread, though not with ſo fatal an effect, through the French fleet and land forces. Beſides the great mortality on the paſſage, the Spaniards landed 1200 ſick on their firſt arrival

at Dominique, and a much greater number afterwards at Guadaloupe and Martinico. Thus the ſpirit of enterprize was damped, and ſome part of their ſtrength diminiſhed.

In the month of September, Mr. Laurens was taken on his way from congreſs to Holland, on the banks of Newfoundland. A packet of papers being thrown over board, and not ſinking ſuddenly, was ſaved by the boldneſs and dexterity of an Engliſh ſailor, and moſt of them were recovered from the effects of the water. On his arrival in England, he was committed, upon a charge of high treaſon, as a ſtate priſoner to the Tower, under an order ſigned by the three ſecretaries of ſtate. By the medium of his papers, adminiſtration came to the knowledge of the eventual treaty of amity and commerce between America and Holland.

In conſequence of this diſcovery, ſtrong remonſtrances were made to the States General; but, as no ſatisfactory anſwer was returned, Sir Joſeph Yorke received orders to withdraw from the Hague; and, on the 20th of December, general repriſals were iſſued againſt the ſhips, goods, and ſubjects, of the States General.

On the 12th of January, 1781, Gen. Greene's troops conſiſted of about 1110. The next day, Col. Lee's partizan legion arrived from the northward, conſiſting of about 100 horſemen, well mounted, and 120 infantry;

infantry; and on the 13th the legion was detached on a ſecret expedition. They puſhed on for George-town, where they ſurpriſed ſeveral officers, and took them priſoners. Major Irwin, and many more of the garriſon, were killed; but the principal part fled to the fort, which Lee was not in a condition to beſiege. While this enterprize was carrying on, the enemy aimed a blow at Morgan, who was adviſed by Greene not to riſque too much.

Gen. Leſlie, in compliance with his orders, left Virginia, and arrived at Charleſtown, and joined Lord Cornwallis, who wiſhed to drive Gen. Morgan from his ſtation, and to deter the inhabitants from joining him. The execution of this buſineſs was entruſted to Lieut. Col. Tarleton, who was detached with about 1100 men for that purpoſe. On the 17th of January, Tarleton came up with Morgan, when an action commenced, which terminated much to the diſadvantage of Tarleton.

Tarleton was very much cenſured for his conduct in this battle, which he was ſuppoſed to have loſt by his un-officer like impetuoſity. Lord Cornwallis, with the expectations of regaining the priſoners, and demoliſhing Morgan's corps, inſtantly concluded on a purſuit, which Morgan was aware of, and took his meaſures accordingly.

On

On the the 31ſt of January, Greene ſucceeded Morgan in the command of the ſouthern army, when a kind of military race commenced between the purſuing Britiſh and the fleeing Americans; but Greene got off before Cornwallis could overtake him.

Lord Cornwallis, being afterwards convinced, from Greene's movements, that he intended to venture an engagement, on the 14th of May ſent off his baggage under a proper eſcort, and the next morning at daybreak, marched with the remainder of his army, amounting to about 2400 men, chiefly troops grown veterans in victory, either to meet Greene on the way, or attack him in his encampment.

The battle took place near Guildford courthouſe; and, after a hard ſtruggle of near two hours, the Americans retreated in good order to the Reedy Fork, and croſſed the river, about three miles from the field of action. Greene loſt his artillery, and two ammunition waggons, the greateſt part of the horſes being killed before the retreat began.

In the month of February, repriſals having been commenced againſt the Dutch, Rodney and Vaughan received inſtructions from Great Britain, to direct their views to the reduction of the Dutch iſland of St. Euſtatia. The Britiſh fleet and army inſtantly appeared there, and ſurrounded it with a great force. Rodney and Vaughan

ſent

ſent a peremptory ſummons to the governor, to ſurrender the iſland and its dependencies within an hour, accompanied with a threat, that if any reſiſtance was made, he muſt abide the conſequences. Monſ. de Graaff, totally ignorant of the rupture between Great Britain and Holland, could ſcarcely believe the officer, who delivered the ſummons, to be ſerious. He returned for anſwer, that being utterly incapable of making any defence, he muſt of neceſſity ſurrender, only recommending the town and inhabitants to the clemency of the Britiſh commanders. The wealth of the place excited the aſtoniſhment of the conquerors, the whole iſland ſeeming to be one great magazine. All the ſtorehouſes were filled with various commodities, and the very beach was covered with hogſheads of ſugar and tobacco. The value was eſtimated conſiderably above three millions ſterling. But this was only a part; for above 150 veſſels of all denominations, many of them richly laden, were captured in the bay, excluſive of a Dutch frigate of 38 guns, and five ſmaller. The neighbouring ſmall iſles of St. Martin and Saba were reduced in the ſame manner.

Rodney being informed, that a fleet of about 30 large ſhips, all richly laden, with ſugar and other Weſt India commodities, had ſailed from Euſtatia for Holland juſt before his arrival, under convoy of a flag ſhip of

60

60 guns, he diſpatched the Monarch and Panther, with the Sybil frigate, in purſuit of them. Theſe ſoon overtook the convoy, when the Dutch admiral refuſing to ſtrike his colours, and all remonſtrances proving ineffectual, a ſhort engagement took place between his ſhip, the Mars and the Monarque. He died bravely in defence of his ſhip, when ſhe inſtantly ſtruck, and the whole convoy was taken.

The keeping of Dutch colours flying at Euſtatia, rendered it for ſome time a decoy to French, Dutch, and American veſſels, a conſiderable number of which fell accordingly into the hands of the conquerors without trouble.

Preparations began to be made, on the 21th of June, for the army under Gen. Waſhington to take the field. The Americans marched towards White Plains, where they were joined by the French troops under Rochambeau.

Sir George Rodney, in conſequence of information concerning the French fleet under the Count de Graſſe, detached the Admirals Sir Samuel Hood and Drake, with ſeventeen ſail of the line, to cruiſe off Fort Royal for the purpoſe of intercepting him. On the 28th of April, ſome of Sir Samuel's headmoſt ſhips returned haſtily in ſight, and with ſignals announced the appearance of a ſuperior fleet, and a numerous convoy, to the

the windward of Point Salines. The admiral made a ſignal for a general chaſe to windward, and at night it was determined by the admirals to continue the line a-head, ſo that getting as much as poſſible to windward, they might cloſe in with Fort Royal at day-light, and cut off the enemy from the harbour.

In the morning the French appeared, their convoy keeping cloſe in with the land, while Count de Graſſe drew up his fleet in a line of battle for their protection. Admiral Hood uſed every manœuvre to bring him to action; but he being to windward, and ſo having the choice, preferred a long-ſhot diſtance. A partial engagement enſued. The van and the neareſt ſhips, in the centre of the Britiſh, were expoſed to a long and heavy weight of fire, in their ſtruggles to cloſe the French, and get to the windward; but ſuffered principally in their maſts, hulls, and rigging. The action laſted about three hours, when Admiral Hood perceiving, that not one ſhot in ten of the French reached, and that his attempts to gain the wind were fruitleſs, ceaſed firing, and the Britiſh fleet bore away for Antigua.

Let us now return to the tranſactions under Lord Cornwallis. One great object of the Britiſh force was the eſtabliſhment of a ſtrong poſt and place of arms, and ſuch as might render them perfectly maſters of Che-

ſapeak-

ſapeak-bay, and therefore they repaired to York Town and Glouceſter.

The French and American armies continued their march from the northward, till they arrived at the head of Elk; and within an hour after, they received an expreſs from Count de Graſſe, with the joyful account of his arrival and ſituation. By the 15th of September, all the troops were arrived and landed at Williamſburgh, and preparations were made with all poſſible diſpatch for putting the army in a ſituation to move down towards York town.

On the 30th of September, Lord Cornwallis was cloſely inveſted in York Town. The trenches were opened by the combined armies on the 6th of October, at 600 yards diſtance from Conwallis's works. On the 9th they opened their batteries, and continued firing all night without intermiſſion. The next morning, the French opened their batteries on the left, and a tremendous roar of cannon and mortars was continued for ſix or eight hours without ceaſing.

The French and Americans continued to carry on the ſiege with great ſucceſs. On the 16th their ſeveral batteries were covered with near 100 pieces of heavy ordnance; while the Britiſh works were ſo deſtroyed, that they could ſcarcely ſhow a ſingle gun. Thus was Lord Cornwallis reduced to the neceſſity of preparing for a ſurrender, or of attempting

attempting an eſcape. He determined upon the latter. Boats were prepared under different pretences, for the reception of the troops by ten at night, in order to paſs them over to Glouceſter Point. The arrangements were made with the utmoſt ſecrecy. The intention was to abandon the baggage, and to leave a detachment behind to capitulate for the town's people, and for the ſick and wounded, his lordſhip having already prepared a letter on the ſubject, to be delivered to Gen. Waſhington after his departure. The firſt embarkation had arrived at Glouceſter Point, and the greater part of the troops were already landed, when the weather, which was before moderate and calm, inſtantly changed to a moſt violent ſtorm of wind and rain. The boats with the remaining troops were all driven down the river, and the deſign of paſſing over was not only entirely fruſtrated, but the abſence of the boats rendered it impoſſible to bring back the troops from Glouceſter. Thus weakened and divided, the army was in no ſmall danger. However, the boats returned, and the troops were brought back in the courſe of the forenoon with very little loſs.

Things were now haſtening to a period, which could be no longer protracted; for the Britiſh works were ſinking under the weight of the French and American artillery. All hopes of relief from New York were over,

and the ſtrength and ſpirits of the royal army were broken down and exhauſted by their conſtant and unremitting fatigue. Matters being in this ſituation, on the 17th of October, Lord Cornwallis ſent out a flag with a letter to Gen. Waſhington, requeſting a ceſſation of arms for twenty-four hours, and that commiſſioners might be appointed for digeſting the terms of capitulation. Commiſſioners were accordingly appointed; and on the ſide of the allies, were Viſc. de Noailles, and Lieut. Col. Laurens, whoſe father was in cloſe confinement in the Tower of London, while the ſon was drawing up articles, by which an Engliſh nobleman and a Britiſh army became priſoners.

On the 19th of October, the poſts of York Town and Glouceſter were ſurrendered. The honour of marching out with colours flying, which had been denied to Gen. Lincoln, was now refuſed to Lord Cornwallis, and Lincoln was appointed to receive the ſubmiſſion of the royal army at York Town, preciſely in the ſame way his own had been conducted about eighteen months before. The troops that ſurrendered priſoners exceeded 7000; but ſo great was the number of ſick and wounded, that there were only 3800 capable of doing duty. The officers and ſoldiers retained their baggage and effects. Fifteen hundred ſeamen ſhared the ſame fate as the garriſon. The Guada-

loupe

loupe frigate of 24 guns, and a number of tranſports, were ſurrendered to the conquerors. About twenty tranſports had been ſunk or burnt during the ſiege. The land forces became priſoners to congreſs; but the ſeamen and ſhips were aſſigned to the French admiral. The Americans obtained a fine train of artillery, conſiſting of 75 braſs ordnance, and 69 iron cannon, howitzers, and mortars.

On the 24th of October, a fleet deſtined for the relief of Lord Cornwallis arrived off the Cheſapeak; but, on receiving the news of his ſurrender, they returned to New York. The fleet conſiſted of 25 ſhips of the line, two fifties, and eight frigates. When they appeared off the Cheſapeak, the French made no manner of movement, though they had 36 ſhips of the line, being perhaps ſatisfied with their preſent ſucceſs. Every argument and perſuaſion was uſed with the Count de Graſſe to induce him to aid the combined army in an operation againſt Charleſtown; but the advanced ſeaſon, the orders of his court, and his own engagements to be punctual to a certain time fixed for his future operations, prevented his compliance. His inſtructions had fixed his departure to the 15th of October, and he had already exceeded that time. On the 27th, the troops under the Marquis St. Simon began to embark for the Weſt Indies, and

about the 5th of November de Graſſe ſailed from the Cheſapeak.

Memorable Events recorded in this Chapter.

Anno 1780.

Sir Henry Clinton ſends 3000 troops to the bay of Cheſapeak.
The French and Spaniſh fleet form a conjunction in the Weſt Indies.
Mr. Laurens taken in his paſſage to Holland.
Sir Joſeph York leaves the Hague.

Anno 1781.

Lieut. Col. Tarleton detached after Gen. Morgan by whom he his defeated.
Sir George Rodney and Gen. Vaughan take St. Euſtatia, St. Martin, and Saba.
The French troops join the Americans under Waſhington.
Sir Samuel Hood and Count de Graſſe engage.
Lord Cornwallis repairs to York Town and Glouceſter.
Is obliged to capitulate, and ſurrender York Town and Glouceſter.
De Graſſe ſails for the Weſt Indies.

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

ON the 27th of November, the King of England went to the houſe of peers, and opened the ſeſſions of parliament. Warm debates took place, on account of the ruinous manner in which the American war was continued; but Lord North and his party, who thought they had not yet carried things far enough, maintained a conſiderable majority in the houſe of commons. Mr. Burke had made ſeveral motions, relative to the releaſe of Mr. Laurens from the Tower. However, at length, Mr. Laurens was brought before Lord Mansfield, on the laſt day of the year, in conſequence of an order from the ſecretary of ſtate, and was diſcharged upon certain conditions.

The naval force of France and Spain in the Weſt Indies, in the month of February, 1782, amounted to 60 ſhips of the line, and their land forces when joined would have formed a conſiderable army. Jamaica had no more than ſix incomplete battalions of regular troops and the militia of the iſland to defend it; and therefore, in caſe of an attack, muſt have been ſoon conquered. The arrival of Sir George Rodney with twelve ſail of the line at Barbadoes, and his ſubſequent junction with Sir Samuel Hood's

ſquadron, together with the arrival of three ſhips of the line from England a few days afterwards, perhaps providentially ſaved Jamaica from falling into the hands of the enemy. The Engliſh fleet at St. Lucia amounted to 36 ſhips of the line, and the force under de Graſſe at Martinico to 34. The metal of the French is always heavier than that of the Engliſh, in equal rates, ſo that in this point the French had the advantage.

The van of the Britiſh fleet was commanded by Sir Samuel Hood, the centre by Sir George Rodney, and the rear by Admiral Sir Francis Drake. The three diviſions of the French fleet were under Count de Graſſe, Monſ. de Vaudreuil, and Monſ. de Bogainville.

On the 8th of April, the French fleet began to turn out of Fort Royal harbour early in the morning, with a great convoy under their protection, all bound to the French or Spaniſh ports in Hiſpaniola. De Graſſe, in order to avoid any encounter on his paſſage, meant to keep cloſe in under the iſlands, till he had eluded the purſuit of the Engliſh. However, their departure from the bay was ſo ſpeedily communicated by ſignals from the frigates, and the Engliſh fleet was in ſuch excellent preparation, that all the ſhips were clear of Groſs Iſlet Bay by noon, and purſued with the utmoſt expedition; ſo that the French ſaved only a few hours, by being

maſters of the time of departure. The Engliſh gained ſight of them under Dominique at night, and afterwards regulated the purſuit by ſignals.

Early the next morning, Count de Graſſe formed the line of battle, and thereby afforded an opportunity to his convoy for proceeding on their courſe, while he remained to abide the conſequences. The van of the Engliſh fleet firſt cloſed with the French centre, while the Engliſh centre and rear were becalmed. The action commenced about nine o'clock on the ninth. The Barfleur, Sir Samuel Hood's own ſhip, had at times ſeven and generally three ſhips firing upon her, and none of the diviſion eſcaped encountering a diſproportionate force. The firm and effectual reſiſtance, with which they ſupported all the efforts of the enemy's ſuperiority, was to the higheſt degree glorious. At length, the leading ſhips of the centre were enabled to come up to their aſſiſtance. Theſe were ſoon followed by Sir George Rodney in the Formidable, with his ſeconds, the Namur and the Duke, all of 90 guns: they made and ſupported a moſt tremendous fire. De Graſſe now changed the nature of the action, and kept at ſuch a diſtance during the remainder of the engagement, as might prevent any thing deciſive happening. The reſt of the Engliſh fleet coming up, de Graſſe withdrew his ſhips from the action,

and

and evaded all the efforts of the Engliſh commanders for its renewal. Two of the French ſhips were ſo damaged, that they were obliged to quit the fleet, and put into Guadaloupe. On the ſide of the Engliſh, the Royal Oak and the Montague ſuffered extremely; but they were capable of being repaired at ſea, ſo as not to be under the neceſſity of quitting the fleet.

On the 11th the French fleet weathered Guadaloupe, and gained ſuch a diſtance, that the body of their fleet could only be deſcried from the maſt-heads of the Britiſh centre, and all hopes of Sir George Rodney's coming up with them ſeemed to be at an end. In this critical ſituation, one of the French ſhips, which had ſuffered in the action, was perceived, about noon, to fall off conſiderably from the reſt of the fleet to leeward. This produced ſignals from the Engliſh admiral for a general chaſe, which was ſo vigorous, that the Agamemnon, and ſome others of the headmoſt of the Engliſh line, were coming up ſo faſt with this ſhip, that ſhe would aſſuredly have been cut off before evening, had not her ſignals and eminent danger induced de Graſſe to bear down with his whole fleet to her aſſiſtance. This movement put it out of the power of the French to avoid fighting. The purſuing Engliſh fell back into their ſtation, and a cloſe line was formed. The French alſo prepared

prepared for battle with the greateſt reſolution, and the night paſſed in preparations on both ſides.

About ſeven o'clock in the morning, of the 12th of April, the battle commenced, and was continued with unremitting fury until near the ſame hour in the evening. As the Engliſh came up, they ranged ſlowly along the French line, and cloſe under their lee. Being ſo near, every ſhot took effect, and the French ſhips being ſo full of men, the carnage in them was prodigious. The Formidable Admiral Rodney's ſhip, fired near eighty broadſides, and it may be ſuppoſed the reſt were not idle. The French ſtood and returned this dreadful fire with the utmoſt firmneſs, each ſide fighting, as if the honour and fate of their country were that day to be decided.

Sir George Rodney in the Formidable, with his ſeconds the Namur and the Duke, and immediately ſupported by the Canada, between twelve and one o'clock, bore directly and with full ſail athwart the French line, and ſucceſsfully broke through, about three ſhips ſhort of the centre, where Count de Graſſe commanded in the Ville de Paris of 110 guns. Being followed and ſupported by the remainder of his diviſion, and wearing round cloſe upon the enemy, he effectually ſeparated their line. This bold adventure proved deciſive. The battle laſted

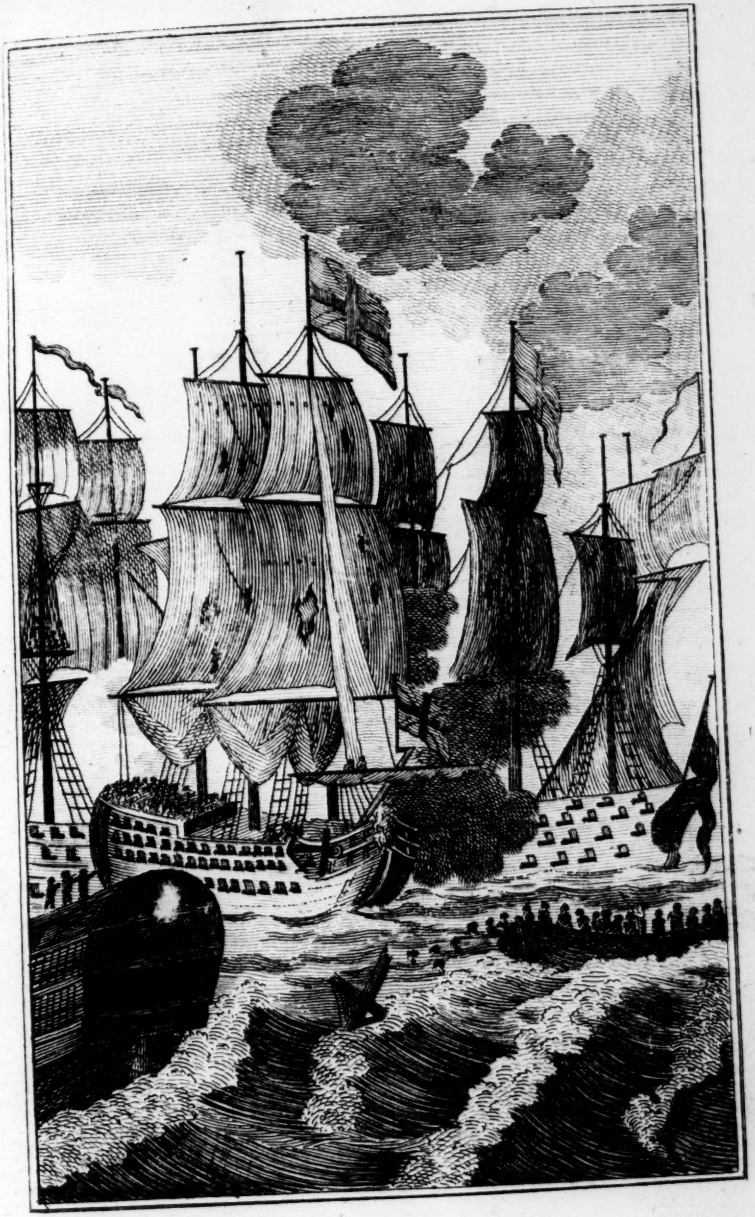
till

till ſun-ſet, for the French fought with the greateſt bravery.

The Britiſh fleet having now gained the wind of the French, their general confuſion was completed. Hood's diviſion had been long becalmed and kept out of action; but his head ſhips and part of his centre, as far at leaſt as the Barfleur, which he himſelf commanded, came up at this juncture, and contributed to render the victory more deciſive. The Cæſar, Glorieux, and Hector, ſoon ſtruck their colours, but not till after they had made the moſt noble defence.

Count de Graſſe was nobly ſupported, even after the line was broken; and the Diadem, a French 74, went down by a ſingle broadſide, in a generous exertion to ſave him. The Ville de Paris was almoſt reduced to a wreck, but de Graſſe ſtill held out. At length, Hood in the Barfleur approached him juſt at ſun-ſet, and poured in a moſt deſtructive fire. The Ville de Paris ſupported all theſe ſhocks for a quarter of an hour after, when ſhe ſtruck to Sir Samuel Hood. It was ſaid, that, at the time ſhe ſtruck, there were but three men left alive and unhurt on the upper deck, and that the Count was one of them,

The Cæſar was unfortunately ſet on fire, and blew up in the night of the action. A lieutenant and fifty Engliſh ſeamen periſhed, with about 400 priſoners. The number of the



Defeat of De Grafse.

BRITISH
2 JY 61
MUSEUM

the French ſlain in this engagement, and that of the ninth, was computed at 3000, and near double that number wounded. The ſmall ſuperiority of Britiſh ſhips, in point of number, contributed nothing to the ſucceſs of the day, as more of Hood's diviſion than that difference amounted to, were prevented coming into action through the want of wind. The whole loſs of the Engliſh, in killed and wounded in the two actions, was ſtated only at 1050, of which 253 were killed on the ſpot.

In the Ville de Paris were found thirty-ſix cheſts of money, deſtined to the pay and ſubſiſtence of the troops in the deſigned attack on Jamaica. Sir Samuel Hood being ſent in purſuit of the ſcattered enemy, on the 19th he came up and took the Jaſon and Caton, of 64 guns each, and two frigates.

Thus the French loſt eight ſhips of the line: ſix were in poſſeſſion of the Engliſh, one had been ſunk, and the Cæſar blew up after her capture. The Engliſh having joined off Cape Tiberoon, and the French having no force to the windward, Sir George Rodney proceeded with the diſabled ſhips and prizes to Jamaica, as well for their repair, as the greater ſecurity of the iſland, ſhould the combined fleet ſtill venture upon the proſecution of their former deſign. Sir Samuel Hood was left with about 25 ſhips of the line,

line, to keep the ſea, and watch the motions of the enemy.

Let us now return to North America, where all parties ſeemed to be heartily tired of the war. On the 5th of May, Sir Guy Carleton arrived at New York, and on the 7th he wrote to Gen. Waſhington, and ſent him ſome public papers, that his excellency might learn from them, the diſpoſition that prevailed in the government and people of Great Britain, relative to the making of a peace with America.

The Britiſh adminiſtration having reſolved upon abandoning all offenſive operations in America, the ſcheme of evacuating all the weakeſt poſts in the United States was adopted. Accordingly, on the 11th of July, Savannah was evacuated, and the Americans immediately took poſſeſſion of it, the works and town being left perfect.

On the 14th of December, Gen. Leſlie, who commanded at Charleſtown, completed the embarkation of his troops on his quitting that town. Gen. Wayne, with the legion and light infantry, had been before their works for ſeveral days, by order of Gen. Greene. It was hinted to him from Gen. Leſlie, through a certain medium, that if they were permitted to embark without interruption, every care ſhould be taken for the preſervation of the town. Wayne was directed to accede to the propoſal, the Britiſh alſo agreeing

ing not to fire on the town after getting on board. The conditions being fully underſtood by both parties, Charleſtown was evacuated and poſſeſſed without the leaſt confuſion, the American advance following cloſe on the Britiſh rear. The governor was conducted into his capital the ſame day, the civil police eſtabliſhed the day following, and on the third the town was opened for buſineſs. On the 17th, the Britiſh croſſed the bar, and went to ſea.

Every thing now ſeemed to announce the approach of peace. The American commiſſioners expedited the negociation with the utmoſt aſſiduity, and on the 30th of November, proviſional articles were agreed upon and ſigned, to take effect whenever terms of peace ſhould be finally ſettled with the court of France. The buſineſs was finiſhed ſo privately and unexpectedly that the miniſters and ambaſſadors, as well as others in and about the court of Verſailles, were ſurpriſed upon hearing the news.

We muſt not here avoid mentioning an unfortunate event, which happened at the cloſe of the ſtill more unfortunate American war. Ten men of war, including Count de Graſſe's ſhips, with a large fleet of merchantmen from Jamaica, ſuffered exceedingly by a tremendous gale of wind off Newfoundland, on the 17th of September. The Ville de Paris and the Glorieux foundered, and only one man out of the complement of both

ſhips eſcaped to tell the melancholy tale. The Hector alſo ſunk; but being deſcried in time by a ſnow that made towards them, the crew were ſaved. The Ramilies went down, but her people were ſaved by the merchantmen in company. The Centaur was likewiſe loſt, and all her company, except twelve, with the captain, who got into the only remaining boat. They traverſed a ſpace of near 800 miles in the Atlantic ocean, without compaſs or quadrant, and with a blanket for a ſail. They had only two biſcuits divided among them every twenty-four hours; and as much water during that ſpace to every man, as the neck of a wine bottle broken off would hold. At the expiration of ſixteen days, when the laſt diviſion of biſcuit and water had been made, to their inexpreſſible joy, they diſcovered the Portugueſe iſland of Fayal, where they ſafely arrived at night, and received every aſſiſtance their melancholy ſituation demanded.

On the 3d of September, 1783, the definitive treaties between Great Britain, France, and Spain, were ſigned at Verſailles by the Duke of Mancheſter, and the plenipotentiaries of the ſaid Court. On the ſame day, the definitive treaty with Great Britain and the United States of America was alſo ſigned at Paris, by David Hartley, Eſq. the Britiſh plenipotentiary, and the plenipotentiaries of the ſaid ſtate.

By the articles of this treaty, his Britannic majeſty acknowledged the independence of the United States of New Hampſhire, Maſſachuſetts Bay, Rhode Iſland and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jerſey, Pennſylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia. He alſo relinquiſhed all claims to the government of them, and conſented to treat with them as free and independent people. Their boundaries were alſo ſettled, and they were allowed the liberty of fiſhing and drying fiſh, as uſual, on the banks of Newfoundland.

The particulars of the treaty between Great Britain, France, and Spain will be found in our Hiſtory of England, to which it more properly belongs.

Thus ended the unhappy American war, which added to the national debt of the mother-country one hundred and twenty millions, beſides the loſs of many thouſands of our braveſt officers, ſoldiers, and ſeamen, to the eternal infamy and diſgrace of thoſe miniſters, who adviſed and carried it on, contrary to the general voice of the people!

Memorable Events recorded in this Chapter.

Anno 1781.

Mr. Laurens diſcharged from his confinement in the Tower of London.

Anno 1782.

The fleets of Sir George Rodney and Count de Graſſe meet in the Weſt Indies.
They engage, and Count de Graſſe is defeated and taken.
Savannah evacuated by the Britiſh forces.
And afterwards Charleſtown in South Carolina.
Proviſional articles of peace ſigned between the Britiſh and American commiſſioners.

Anno 1783.

The definitive treaties ſigned between Great Britain, France, Spain, and America.

2 JY 61

THE END.